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Police Union Claims Retaliation

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Methuen Police Superior Officer's Union Says that Mayor Jajuga's administration is retaliating against them for union activity and asking for additional money for violating fair labor practices.

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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Gerard Boucher US Marine Corp-Retired; Still Serving Brother & Sister Veterans!

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Haverhill's Gerard Boucher joined the US Marine Corp to avoid getting drafted by the US Army. On the wall of his home sits a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts, so he certainly picked an unusual way to avoid the draft. Talking to Gerard and his close friend Carolyn for an hour or so in his kitchen, I felt transported back to the Merrimack Valley in the 1960s. Gerard

graduated from Haverhill Trade Class of 1966, found himself in Vietnam in 1967 with the 26th Marines, and is now retired from the US Marines. He currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Massachusetts Regional Group of the Blinded Veterans Association. Carolyn attended Newburyport High, and said she was glad she was not a young man back in the 1960s, as many of the young men in her class ended up in Vietnam. She later graduated from Smith College and was once

roughed up by the Boston Police during an antiwar protest. Both enjoyed 50s and 60s music in their youth, and still do. Gerard following Doo Wop bands to this day, he and Carolyn recently attended a Doo Wop concert together in Plaistow, NH.

After he was wounded, a relationship with a blind Veteran of World War II started Gerard on his lifetime journey of serving his fellow Veterans. Throughout our meeting, Gerard asked me to help him spread the word of the great work of the Blinded Veterans Association. Wounded three times in Vietnam, while serving with the US Marines, Gerard's only concern during our recent meeting was how many blind Veterans I currently know, and can I help him locate more of these men and women, so he can help them lead productive lives. Not one of the Veterans from any branch of service or any era that I interviewed over the last two years, has ever boasted about their military service. Gerard is cut from the same cloth; he is focused on serving the needs of others. He took this spirit of humble service to



our great nation to another level, with his constant probing questions about who I knew in the Veteran's community, and how I can get other blind Veterans in touch with him, so he can assist them.

Barely out of his teens when he was blinded in combat, in Vietnam, during a mortar barrage on October 11,

1969. He recovered in the Chelsea Naval Hospital from his other wounds, but it was while there, he learned that his sight would not come back. His entire focus during our meeting was engaging me to help inform the public of the work of the Blind Veterans Association. The benefits of joining, and the organization's goals. Truly quite a hero, wounded three times defending our nation, he lives the spirit of "Semper Fi", focusing on how he can do more for his fellow Veterans. Not one to focus on what he cannot do, he is focused on what he can do. Gerard earned a BA from Bradford College, a MA from Thornwood in the Netherlands, and a PhD from Atlantic International University based in Hawaii. His thesis was on "Multicultural and Social Justice". This was written us-

Two Years of Chaos and Controversy Almost Over

The election of a new mayor and city council in Methuen, and the impending departure of Mayor James Jajuga will mark the end of conflict, chaos, and controversy that has divided the city and left Methuen’s reputation as a national disgrace.

Over the last two years of the Jajuga administration the mayor refused to fulfil his duties as school committee chairman by showing up at the meetings and dealing with what turned out to be a \$4M school debt on his watch... or his non-watch as it were.

Jajuga not only neglected his duties as school committee chair, but stopped showing up at city council meetings after months of pounding his fist and screaming at councilors who dared to question his lack of policies and actions to make the city better.

What’s more, Jajuga failed to solve the ongoing controversy over the Methuen Police Superior Officer’s contract. A contract he voted for as a city councilor even though his son is a captain on the police department.

On his watch Jajuga allowed former superintendent Judy Scannell to get a golden retirement parachute instead of conducting an investigation and firing her for; overspending, and not getting her state required license to be a superintendent.

While Jajuga has the full support of his cronies at the Eagle Tribune - who called his lack of efforts “yeoman’s work”, we are not fooled.

Mayor Jajuga came into office two years ago and left the city far worse off than when he arrived.

Multiple lawsuits, a police department under fire, a DPW building crumbling around city workers, nepotism, conflicts of interest, claims of bribery and extortion, and the utter lack of willingness to work with others has left a series of monumental problems for the new mayor and council to solve.

What’s more, violent crime in Methuen continues to soar while the “public safety mayor” made no effort to target the crime riddled areas, and no effort to reorganize the police department

to make it more efficient and effective for city residents.

Enter Neil Perry and the newly elected city council.

When the new council and mayor take over in January they may already be behind the eight ball with a budget deficit. The Superior Officer’s contract is going to arbitration next month and if they win any amount of money as the result of Jajuga’s neglect and retaliation, the new officials coming in will have to find the money to pay that bill.

Unfortunately for Methuen, the 2019 city council refused to heed the warnings of Councilor Jessica Finocchiaro, who advised that only borrowing \$4M to cover the school overspending would leave the city financially vulnerable if unanticipated expenses come up in the near future. She recommended borrowing an additional million or more “just in case”.

Now, if the Police Superior Officer’s union wins their arbitration case, or even part of it, there is no money in the city budget to cover that “unexpected expense”.

That means the new mayor and council may have to raise taxes or lay off employees come January.

This kind of short sightedness on behalf of the current mayor and council have taken a bad financial situation for the city and made it even worse.

This is sad for everyone involved.

We hope the new council and mayor can find creative ways to solve Methuen’s self-inflicted wounds and begin to bring the city back to financial stability. But, it won’t be easy and it won’t come without sacrifices.

We are just glad that the era ... or error of the Jajuga administration is finally almost over.

While we know Jajuga and the 2019 city council have learned nothing from their mistakes and stubbornness over the last two years, the rest of us have learned a lot.

Now, let’s see if the incoming officials can take that knowledge and make things better for Methuen’s future. ◇

Entrepreneurship in the City of Lawrence

Tomas G Michel
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Diving into a business venture and becoming an entrepreneur is one of the most excruciating tasks an individual can partake into, but also, one of the most fulfilling ones. There are many requirements to meet, and many conditions to satisfy, in order to be successful. Knowing a platform’s break-even point is as important as obtaining revenue. A single person needs to wear many hats, especially in the start-up phase. The owner may have to promote the sales, run operations, direct communications and develop a path, all at once. To achieve growth and sustainability in today’s everchanging socio-economic atmosphere, implies an ability to stay marketable, competitive and innovative. Lastly, the business model is not a structure written in stone; how to deliver value to clients’ needs to adapt, as so do external factors directly impacting the commerce.

Michael Tarshi, the current Director of Operations and President of Dental Bright, with offices on Essex Street in Lawrence and Cambridge Street in Burlington, Massachusetts agrees that in order to become a successful entrepreneur, ones needs to embrace change and adapt; hence staying informed is imperative. After being selected to participate as a contestant on Donald Trump’s The Apprentice season 3 —from over a million applicants, in 2005—, Michael consolidated that ignorance is painful for the business. With a project that started as an idea, Dental Bright is now able to provide 45 employments in the City of Lawrence. “When your business is giving you too many problems, can’t focus on all of them at once. The entrepreneur has to tackle them one by one and embrace the opportunity each can bring to your growth” he states. Advising that failure is not an option, one should continue persevering and not giving up. He measures success not by the amount of power an individual acquires, but by the ability to give. Leading him to become an advocate of neighborhood development in City of Lawrence. He is a supporter of local organizations such as Bread and Roses, Lawrence Boys and Girls Club and Habitat for Humanity. Michael is also an active member of the ICSC, Greater Boston Real Estate Board and the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce. Real Estate is another one of the trades

ENTREPRENEURS: PAGE 13



Dawn’s Sign Tech Receives Manufacturing Award

On October 22nd, the Massachusetts Legislative Manufacturing Caucus held its 4th Annual Manufacturing Awards Ceremony at the State House in the Great Hall of Flags. Dawn's Sign Tech of North Andover was one of more than 70 manufacturing businesses from across the state to be nominated. The ceremony included remarks from Secretary Kennealy from the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development. The businesses honored were of all sizes and from all different manufacturing sectors.

Dawn's Sign Tech was nominated by State Representative Christina Minicucci. "I was thrilled to have the opportunity to nominate Dawn's Sign Tech for this year's award. Dawn has been a tremendous community member and leader in the small business community of the Merrimack Valley. It was quite impressive to learn about all the manufacturers, big and small, that contribute to the economy of the Commonwealth. I was proud to spotlight Dawn's Sign Tech as one of those businesses."

Dawn's Sign Tech received an award from the Manufacturing Caucus along with official House of Representatives and Senate citations signed by members of the North Andover delegation, Representative Tram Nguyen, Senator Diana DiZoglio and Senator Bruce Tarr. Also honored from the Merrimack Valley was Methuen’s New England Die Cutting and New Balance's Lawrence location.

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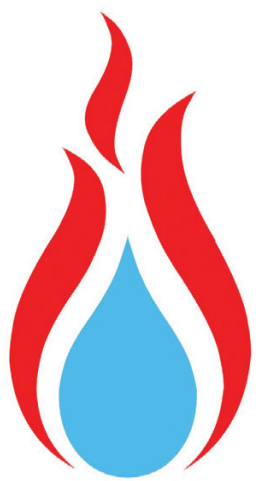
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“WEATHER 101” WITH AL!

Al Kaprielian
VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

Welcome to November and the month with shorter days (less daylight) and longer nights. Daylight Savings time ended at 2 AM on Sunday November 3rd. At this time we turned our clocks back one hour. Now we are back on standard time.

Recapping October we saw more wet weather and rainy days compared to September. We also saw some mild days with high temperatures in the 60s to even lower 70s. On October 23rd & 24th we saw high temperatures in the 60s. Bedford, MA reached 70 degrees on October 24. On Thursday October 24 it was a spectacular fall day with deep blue clear sky and sunshine. The following week turned out different with cloudy dreary and wet weather.

This past October did produce some active weather. We had a heavy rain and strong wind event on the night of October 16. A potent low pressure system caused heavy rain and strong damaging wind gusts. Many areas saw over 2 inches of rain. Over 200,000 power outages occurred in Massachusetts due to strong damaging winds. Hardest hit areas with power outages were Cape Cod & the Islands. The strong winds caused many trees and power lines to fall resulting in significant power outages. The highest wind gust occurred in Provincetown MA on Cape Cod where winds gusted to 90 miles per hour at 2:14 AM on October 17.

Wellfleet on Cape Cod had a wind gust to 89 miles per hour. Woods Hole and Yarmouth had wind gusts to 79 miles per hour. Mashpee had winds gust to 78 miles per hour. These areas all had wind gusts greater than hurricane force. Hurricane force wind gusts occur at 74 miles per hour. Harwich on Cape Cod had a wind gust to 72 miles per hour. East Falmouth had a gust to 66 miles per hour. Duxbury in Plymouth county had a gust to 80 miles per hour. Logan Airport in Boston had a gust to 70 miles per hour. After this storm passed major cleanup occurred with the falling of many trees. Eventually as the storm moved farther out to sea it became a tropical storm.

After this storm we saw another low pressure system (not as strong) occur on Sunday October 27. Areas along the coast had wind gusts to 50-55 miles per hour. Many areas saw an inch to an inch and a half of rainfall. Martha's Vineyard had 1.97 inches of rain. This storm was significant however not as fierce as the mid-



October storm. After this storm we saw a mild period however more of a dreary damp last week of October. Temperatures on October 31st reached into the upper 60s and low 70s and Boston & Bedford MA reached into the low 70s.

It was also quite humid on October 31 with dewpoints in the upper 60s. This weather did not feel like fall when you need to reach for the heavy jacket. The last day of October was warm enough to even bring out the shorts again. Another rain and wind event occurred later on October 31. This caused many towns to move trick and treating to Friday or Saturday nights. On October 31 we had warm moist humid air ahead of a cold front.

Ahead of the cold front there was even severe weather over New York State and PA. The contrast between warm air ahead of the front and cold air behind the cold front was responsible for the severe weather.

We saw strong and even in some places damaging wind gusts and power outages again on the night of October 31 into November 1. The cold front moved through in the early morning hours of November 1.

Even behind the cold front there was a period of strong gusty winds. Will we see more mild/warm weather in November or will it be a colder month. Stay tuned to next month's article when we will also recap the hurricane season for this year. In the meantime, enjoy the rest of fall and prepare for winter. ♦



Methuen Ballet Ensemble to Perform Nutcracker

The Methuen Ballet Ensemble is making its annual trip to Newburyport to perform “The Nutcracker” on November 30th at 3pm and 7pm and on December 1st at 1pm. All performances will take place at the Firehouse Center for the Arts, a beautiful waterfront performing arts venue right in the heart of downtown Newburyport.

Company members will perform all principle roles and will be joined by Alban Costello, a special professional guest artist from Festival Ballet Providence, who will perform the Snow King and Sugar Plum Cavalier. All children roles are performed by students from Voter’s School of Dance in Salem, NH, the official school of the Methuen Ballet Ensemble, as well as Dance Concepts in Pelham, NH and Helene Joy School of Dance in Middleton, MA.

This production truly comes to life with special effects including a growing tree and falling snow. New choreography and custom made costumes make this local production of professional caliber. Don’t miss it!

Tickets range in price from \$26 - \$28 are on sale now at the box office.



\$100K MASS CASH PRIZE CLAIMED FOUR DAYS BEFORE EXPIRING

A \$100,000 Mass Cash prize won in the November 9, 2018 drawing has been claimed, four days before it was due to expire. Jasmine Henry of Boston claimed her \$100,000 prize (before taxes) Tuesday, November 5 at the Lottery’s Dorchester headquarters. Her winning Quic Pic ticket was purchased at Metamorphosis, 1153 Washington St. in Dorchester. The store received a \$1,000 bonus for selling the winning ticket. Mass Cash prizes must be claimed within a year of the date of the drawing in which the prize was won. Lottery prizes that expire become part of the net profit that the Lottery returns to the Commonwealth for distribution to all 351 cities and towns.

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Perry to Lead Methuen

The Valley Patriot caught up with Methuen Mayor-elect Neil Perry on election night to talk about his thoughts on the election and how he is going to move Methuen forward after a very negative and bizarre campaign that brought out nearly 50% of the Methuen voters.

“I want to say thank you to the residents of Methuen for the overwhelming support, for a positive message, and positive campaign. With all that was going on especially in the last couple of weeks, all the mud that was slung, I think the voters of Methuen spoke loud and clear with their message that they are tired of the negativity and they want a government that will work for them, it is transparent, and shows integrity. We are going to do that.”

Now that you’ve been elected what are you going to hit the ground running with?

“The work really starts tomorrow. We now have to start thinking about filling key positions like chief of staff. I haven’t given it any thought at all yet. Then we are going to start with the transition from the current administration. Mayor Jajuga did reach out and leave me a message tonight to talk about the transition.”

“For me it’s going to start with a look under the hood, looking at the finances, that is so important because we have to come to the citizens and start the relationship fresh. We need to talk about what the city looks like financially moving forward. And before we do any other things like talking about the master plan or things of that nature, we have to understand where we are financially. That’s mission one.”

“We also have to start leading by example. We have to start leading by example with our behavior We have to stop all the negativity that has been so omnipresent. We have to focus on some of the good things that happen in our city.”

“That doesn’t mean we can’t critique each other, and I use you as a perfect example Tom, if there are things we do that



Methuen Mayor-elect Neil Perry with State Rep. Christina Minicucci and North Andover Selectman Phil (of the Future) DeCologero

require criticism we should welcome your criticism. I know I’m going to get that from you Tom when you think I’m wrong. But, I also look forward to that because it creates a dialogue about how we are going to fix the city. We need transparency about what we are doing and why we are doing it. That’s essential for all the citizens of Methuen.”

“I am immensely proud of my children tonight; my son has said that this is more than just an election, this is a job interview. So now, I’ve been hired and we have to start the job and start by building relationships with the new council members and figure out how we go forward from here. I know we talked about that during the debates and I thoroughly enjoyed all the debates, especially yours because there were a lot of topics that we could discuss and focus on how we can move the city forward.”

METHUEN MAYOR’S REPORT ON PAYING ATTENTION!

“As part of trying to be transparent and communicating with the public I’ve com-

mitted to you and the Paying Attention! Podcast to come on your show once a month and do a monthly Methuen Mayor’s Report for the public. I committed to that before the election and I’m going to keep my word on that. Every month we’re going to talk about things that affect the city, things that are coming up, and hopefully hearing from the citizens and getting feedback from them about things that are working in the community and things that are not working. That will give us a forum to address what things we are doing well and what things we need improvement on. I know you are always going to tell us when we are not getting something right. And I look forward to that. I mean that sincerely. Doing this once a month is very important so that the citizens can see that we’re not trying to hide anything or keep things from them. We are being upfront about the things that go well and the things that may not go well; that’s extremely important to me.”

THE NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN

I asked Neil if he was surprised that his opponent’s campaign went negative on his personal life

“Yes. Probably the hardest thing is, I expected a little negativity but I didn’t expect what happened. I was a little disappointed at how it came out. They kept saying ‘rumors say this and rumors say that’ and that’s unfortunate. I think there’s

ELECTION RESULTS

*Perry 6,386 (71%)

Kannan 2,666 (29%)

a lesson for us all here that shows from the voters that negative campaigning does not work.”

“I’m a political neophyte, so the people who advised me said that if you’re going to go negative in a campaign you should go negative early, and then you come back strong with a positive message. I think all that negativity toward me at the end didn’t really hurt me at all. I think there was a backlash and it really helped me. I think the voters were very dismayed at some of the negative comments made about me. I mean, comparing me to Harvey Weinstein [who is a rapist] was way over the line in my book.”

“I have never raised my hand to any man, woman or child and that’s the truth. I’ve never had a physical altercation with anybody that I can recall, because to me things have to be worked out intelligently; you have to have relationships with people and discuss things.”

I asked if he planned to have an investigation as chairman of the school committee into how the Judy Scannell controversy actually happened in the first place.

“I know you’re going to hate this answer, I think what we really have to do is look at accountability from this point forward. All of the things that happen in the city while I’m the mayor.”

“We have to set a tone of accountability. I promise you this, when I screw up I’m going to tell you I screwed up. I own that. I’m not really a politician I’ve never learned how to be a politician and talk around things. So, when I screw up I’m going to say I own it. I think what we want to do in the city is that we want to show others that when you make mistakes, it happens, we are all human beings, but learn from that mistake, own it and

MAYOR: PAGE 11

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METHUEN CITY COUNCIL 2020-2022

CITY COUNCILORS AT-LARGE

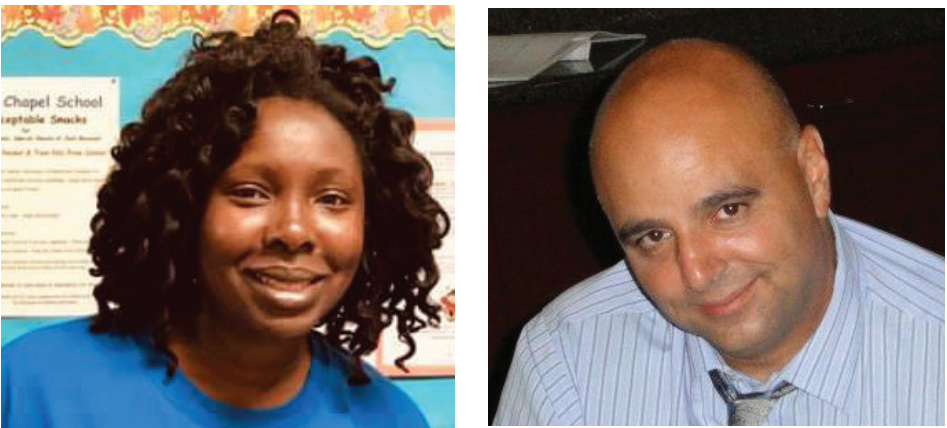


Jessica Finocchiaro

Nick DiZoglio

Dave Beauregard

EAST END COUNCILORS



Eunice Zeigler

Steve Saba

CENTRAL DISTRICT COUNCILORS



Jim McCarty

Joel Faretra

WEST DISTRICT COUNCILORS



Mike Simard

Allison Saffie

The Methuen city council is made up of nine members. Two councilors are elected from each of the three districts, and three councilors are elected city-wide or “at-large”.

The Methuen city council is in charge of passing the municipal budget, must ratify the mayor’s hiring or firing of department heads and must approve all contracts above a certain amount of money. The Council is also in charge of creating, amending or doing away with city ordinances such as noise ordinances, what time you are allowed to cut your lawn or last call for local drinking establishments.

AT LARGE (CITY WIDE)
Three candidates were elected to the city council representing the entire city. Incumbent city councilor Jessica Finocchiaro came in first place with 4,795 votes. Finocchiaro will be serving her second term.

The second elected councilor was School Committeeman Nick DiZoglio who received 4,021 votes.

Taking the third at-large city council seat was DJ Beauregard with 3,999 votes.

Placing fourth was Steve Angelo who had 3,338 votes.

Arthur Hardy withdrew from the race after the deadline for ballots to be printed and received 1,967 votes.

EAST DISTRICT
In the East District of Methuen both incumbent city councilors Steve Saba and Eunice Zeigler ran unopposed. Both will be serving their second term in 2020.

Saba placed first with 2,189 votes. Zeigler placed second with 1,961 votes.

There were 34 write-in votes. Both will sit on the 2020 Methuen City Council.

CENTRAL DISTRICT
In the Central District, two were elected to sit on the 2020 Methuen City Council. Incumbent James McCarty topped the ticket with 1,141 votes. He will be serving his second (two year) term on the council.

Placing second and securing a seat on the council was newcomer Joel Faretra who garnered 889 votes to the third place finisher DJ Deeb who was only 16 votes behind him with 873 votes.

Coming in last place was incumbent Joyce Campagnone with 801 votes. Campagnone was 88 votes behind the second place finisher Joel Faretra.

WEST DISTRICT COUNCIL
In the west, hero Lawrence Police Officer Mike Simard placed first with 1,909 votes taking one of the two open spots left by Lynn Vidler who did not seek reelection, and George Kazanjian who could not run because of term limits.

Securing the second open seat on the council representing the West District was 26 year old Allison Saffie with 1,373. Saffie placed fourth (out of five) in the September primary and surprised many by placing second in this month’s final election and taking a seat on the council.

Saffie edged out the favorite for that second seat, Bill Bryant, by a mere 208 votes. Bryant received 1,165 votes. Frank Gallo came in fourth place with 894 votes. ♦



Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan with Jana Zanni Pesce and Jana DiNatale being photobombed by newly elected Mayor of Methuen Neil Perry during the victory celebrations.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Columbia Gas Class Action Settlement

Please join us at the following meetings to learn about the settlement reached in the Consolidated Class Actions against Columbia Gas

NOV. 8, 2019

6pm to 9pm
Collins Center, Andover HS
100 Shawsheen Rd., Andover, MA

NOV. 9, 2019

1pm to 4pm
Greater Lawrence Technical High School
57 River Rd., Andover, MA

NOV. 9, 2019

5pm to 8pm
North Andover Middle School
495 Main St., North Andover, MA

- Hear from the Consolidated Class Action Leadership Team, the lawyers who filed the class action lawsuits and negotiated the \$143 Million settlement, about why they joined forces and how they achieved the settlement.
- Learn about your rights and options under the settlement and receive instructions about how to fill out claims forms.
- A question and answer period will follow the presentation where lawyers will answer questions from the audience.
- All are welcome at each of the three meetings.



THANK YOU!

To the voters of Methuen who put their trust in me to lead you for the next two years



Neil
PERRY
For Methuen

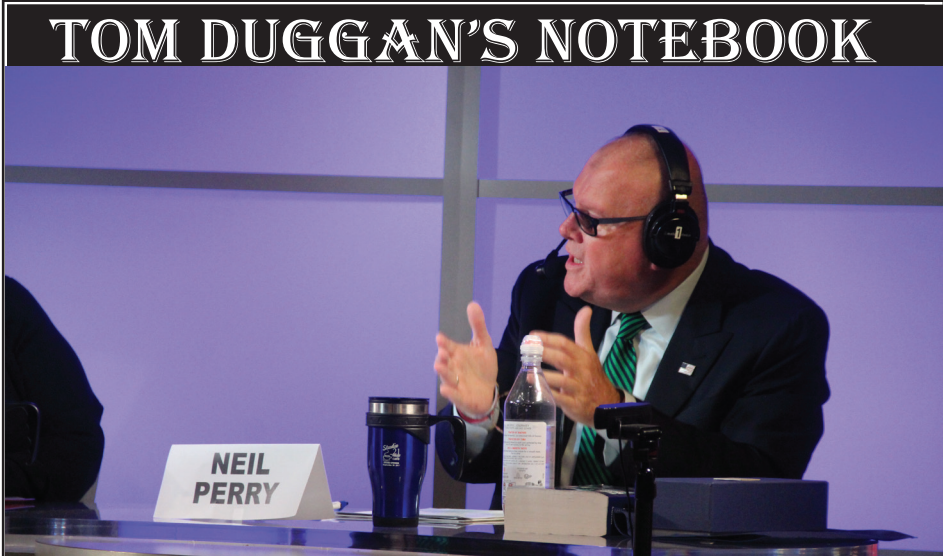
My pledge is to serve the
people of Methuen and
always put you first!!

THANK YOU JEN KANNAN
I want to personally thank Methuen City Council Chairman Jen Kannan for her decades of service to this community. Whether you supported Jen or not in this mayoral election, she has given of herself to the city of Methuen and the Merrimack Valley and made a lot of people’s lives better including the homeless. I hope this does not discourage Jen from staying involved in the Psychological Center and the many other organizations she has helped throughout the years. Whatever her faults may have been throughout this campaign she DOES care about the community and she should be thanked for her service.

DOCTORED PERRY PHOTO
Dirty politics seemed to be the norm in Methuen this year but nothing seemed more dirty than Kannan supporters (not Kannan herself) circulating a doctored photo of Neil Perry making it look like he posed in a photo with Sharon Pollard, Tom Lussier, Steve Zanni, and Phil DeCologero. If I had to guess I would say this is the work of Sid Harris and his partner Tim Wood. Regardless of who actually designed the ad and doctored the photo, however, member of the Kannan campaign were the ones circulating it. The voters of Methuen deserved the truth in this election and circulating fake photos is not the way to give it to them. Can you imagine the crying and whining we would hear from the Kannan campaign if Perry supporters doctored a photo of Kannan with Steve Baddour, Jim Jajuga, and Gary Marcoux? All of whom supported Kannan? We all know they would be outraged by it, but they seem to have no problem doing it themselves. It was shameful. Even more shameful was Evelyn Tobin’s response online claiming that it was unfair to blame the Kannan campaign when the photo was not “official” released by the campaign. This was political double speak at its worst. Especially given the fact that the Kannan campaign and Jen Kannan herself blamed the “Perry campaign” for the acts of individuals working on the campaign. You can’t have it both ways.

SABA SHOWS UP TO PODCAST HE TRIED TO HAVE CANCELLED
Last year Methuen City Councilor and his minions Tim Wood and Bill Bryant tried to have the Paying Attention! Podcast shut down. They had their friends call my advertisers, Saba had his brother approach the owner of Studio 21 Podcast Cafe and threaten to no longer do business with Two Guys Smoke Shop if Dave Garofalo didn’t cancel my show over my criticism of Saba wanting to lay off 30 cops. So, it was kind of surprising when we held our Methuen candidate debate series when I looked out at the audience from the stage and saw none other than Steve Saba sitting in the audience. I mean, I have no credibility according to Saba and if he had gotten his way last year there would be no debates to attend. Yet, there he was enjoying the presentation he tried to shut down. What a total hypocrite.

TIM WOOD - MISSING
For the last few months former Loop Weekly publisher Tim Wood was pretending to be a “journalist” - publishing stories designed only to get his friends elected, and attack their political foes. He went on and on and on about how he was a real journalist and was only trying to fairly present the news of the election to



TOM DUGGAN’S NOTEBOOK
Methuen Mayor-elect Neil Perry will join Tom Duggan once a month on the Paying Attention! Podcast with the Methuen Mayor’s report. Perry says it is part of his new agenda of transparency. Perry says he hopes it will not only educate the public about what is going on in Methuen but will also be a forum where he can take questions and feedback from the public.

the voters of Methuen. But a funny thing happened on election night, none of his friends won. You know how you can tell? If you go to his Facebook pages there is absolutely not one word about who won the Methuen elections this month. Suddenly, Tim Wood is not interested in being a “journalist” and educating the voters about what happened on Election Day. No stories of the victors or the defeated, no tidbits about what happened at the polls, no back stories about who was connected



to whom and what it means for the city. Nothing. I think that says it all don’t you? COUNCIL PRESIDENT? Now that new city councilors have been elected in Methuen the

next question on the horizon is who will replace Jen Kannan as council president. We all know Steve Saba was supporting a slate of candidates in order to get that top spot on the council but his efforts fell short with his pal and puppy dog Bill Bryant who lost in the West End Council race. With only McCarty, Eunice Zeigler, and Jessica Finocchiaro returning to the council I’m putting all my chips on Eunice. Zeigler is the voice of reason on the council, she doesn’t speak on every issue and she generally shies away from controversy. But, whether it is Zeigler or Finocchiaro one thing is for sure, the public is going to have a professional council president in 2020. PS Mike Simard for vice chair!

BUTT HURT BILL BRYANT
It seems that failed West End City Council candidate Bill Bryant not only has anger management issues but also has no problem telling women who they should associate with and how to be a woman. On election day Bryant approached the sign holder of another campaign and berated her for being friends with someone he didn’t like. He also told her that she was a disgrace to all women for not denouncing her friend’s comments that he deems degrading to all women. This is all very weird given that Bill Bryant is a man yelling at a woman, telling her how to be a woman. Bryant was obviously feeling the pressure of his failing campaign to a woman, Allie Saffie, and was so flustered that he left the Marsh School hours before the final votes were cast. Bryant’s campaign was rife with controversy before his election day confrontation. He had two

conflicts of interest as his wife works as a school department employee and Bryant himself works for the Crest Collaborative school which gets millions of dollars from the Methuen School System. But, Bill’s biggest problem on election day was that he just couldn’t help himself when he saw the opportunity to berate a woman. Good riddance to Mr. Bryant and his bullying. He failed at trying to have my show taken off the air. He failed at trying to have Methuen Day shut down last year and this year he failed as a candidate for city council. Now Bryant has one more thing in common with Sid Harris. They are both three-time losers.

STEVE ANGELO’S MOM TO THE RESCUE
While campaign workers were spending the entire day holding signs on Election Day, council at-large candidate Steve Angelo’s mom made soup for everyone and traveled from polling location to polling location to make sure everyone had eaten. YAY MOM!

MRT AND UMASS LOWELL PRES- ENT READING OF THE LOWELL OFFERING
Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT) and the UMass Lowell English Department will present a dramatic reading of The Lowell Offering, a work in progress by Andy Bayiates and Genevra Gallo-Bayiates, at 7 p.m. on Friday, November 15, at the Lowell National Park Visitor Center, 246 Market Street. Jess Hutchinson will direct. Admission is free, but reservations are required; please RSVP at 978-970-5000.

In March MRT will present the fully staged world premiere of The Lowell Offering. In 1840 a group of factory workers began publishing the world’s first magazine written solely by women; it was called The Lowell Offering. The play is the story of the magazine’s editor, Harriet Farley, and a labor activist, Sarah Bagley – and the rise and fall of their friendship, the magazine, and “Mill Girl” culture.

Circle Health serves as the 2019-20 Season Sponsor. For The Lowell Offering, Enterprise Bank and UMass Lowell serve as Production Sponsors with WCAP Radio and Merrimack Valley Magazine as Media Sponsors.

For further information, visit www.mrt.org/lowelloffering.

REP. NGUYEN JOINS HOUSE TO PASS SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET WITH INCREASE IN SPENDING

On October 16th, Representative Tram Nguyen joined her colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass a supplemental budget allowing the Commonwealth to add \$400 million to the balance of its “Rainy Day Fund” and to make key investments in education, the environ-

ment, gun safety, infrastructure, local aid, and fighting the opioid crisis.

“The supplemental budget demonstrates our strong commitment to our students and future generations by investing in education and the environment. It also increases our investment in the Census 2020 outreach effort, which is incredibly important since we would lose up to \$3,600 in federal funding every year for each person not counted. We do not want to lose money that could go toward local aid for our towns.” said Representative Nguyen.

The supplemental budget includes \$1 million for 2020 census outreach efforts, \$3 million for grants for early educator scholarships for school paraprofessionals, \$5 million in a program to expand access for students to community-based mental health and behavioral health services in schools, \$10 million for gun violence prevention programs, and \$16 million to fight the opioid crisis. It reaffirms the House’s strong partnership with municipalities by providing \$60 million to invest in local roads and bridges projects.

Additionally, the supplemental budget promotes the environment by making a \$24 million investment for the testing of potential per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination of water supplies and for grants to support treatment and remediation of affected public drinking water systems, \$35 million for the Clean Water Trust Fund, and \$32 million in the state’s electric vehicle rebate program.

The bill will now go to the Senate. MOULTON HOSTING BILLERICA TOWN HALL NOVEMBER 16th
SALEM, Mass. — Representative Seth Moulton (MA-06) will host a town hall in the morning of Saturday, November 16 at Billerica High School in Billerica, Mass.

“I try to have town halls about once a month because they give me the chance to bring our region’s ideas and voices back to the debate in Washington. I’m looking forward to listening to folks in Billerica,” Moulton said.

DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 2019, TIME: 9:30 AM LOCATION: Billerica High School 35 River Street, Billerica, MA 01821

HENRY DAVID THOREAU FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS is \$20K Environmental Leadership Scholarships for Massachusetts High School Seniors.

The Henry David Thoreau Foundation awards collegiate scholarships of up to \$20K to eight to ten students graduating from public or private high schools in Massachusetts. As Henry David Thoreau Scholars, these select high school seniors may enroll in any college and university in the world while they major or minor in an environmentally related field.

The Henry David Thoreau Scholarships are up to \$20,000 four-year scholarships awarded to eight students graduating from public or private high schools in Massachusetts. High school seniors awarded the Henry David Thoreau Scholarships can enroll in any college and university in the world while they major or minor in an environmentally related field. Henry David Thoreau Scholars are encouraged to enroll in internships or study abroad to broaden their awareness and understanding of environmental issues.

Henry David Thoreau Scholars have studied a wide variety of environmentally related areas, including biology, epidemiology, oceanography, international affairs and environmental law, and upon completing their undergraduate degrees, they became members of the Henry David Thoreau Society. Thoreau Scholar alumni have published articles in the Henry David Thoreau Environmental Digest, initiated environmental projects on

CONTINUED UNDER FREDDIE



FREDDIE SAYS

As a human, I wonder if Billy Bryant thinks he can tell me how to be a dog. He has no problem telling women how to be a woman ... right?

Freddie also Says
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planetary health, and formed companies and organizations including the animation company, Oxbow, with clients including WildAmerica and the Center for Food Safety, satellite imagery startup CrowdAI, and the nonprofit energy organization Equitable Origin.

The Henry David Thoreau Foundation further assists its scholarship winners by identifying environmentally related internships, offering internship stipends, and providing networking opportunities. Upon graduation from college, Henry David Thoreau Scholars are inducted into the Henry David Thoreau Society. A sign of success of the Henry David Thoreau Foundation’s mission to foster environmental leadership is the support of past scholarship winners and to provide to present scholarship winners.

To learn more about the Henry David Thoreau Foundation and the Henry David Thoreau Scholarships, please visit thoreauscholar.org. An online application will be available on October 15. Students have until February 1, 2020, to apply.

NECC Offers FREE ROBOTICS & AUTOMATION PROGRAM

Northern Essex Community College is holding information sessions, November 20th, and December 11th, for individuals to learn about a seven-week, 140-hour Robotics & Automation Training Program that begins this winter.

The grant-funded, noncredit program is free to qualified applicants.

The information sessions, which are free and open to the public, will be held at the Greater Lawrence Technical School, (GLTS) 57 River Road, Andover, at 4 p.m. The program, which is designed for unemployed and underemployed individuals (ages 17 to 29) with the minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent, runs from January 21 through March 13, Mondays through Thursdays, 4 to 9 p.m. at GLTS.

The program is ideal for anyone with mechanical, electrical, IT or manufacturing skills or experience.

This program introduces the concepts and technology used in modern manufacturing environments. Students learn fundamental skills that will help them gain employment as a manufacturing technician or related position and prepare them for the specific training required by manu-

facturing companies running automated equipment. The program includes online modules as well as hands-on activities using training equipment. The concepts and skills presented during the program are relevant to setup, programming, running and troubleshooting automated equipment and industrial robots.

Students who successfully complete the robotics portion of the program by passing the online modules, hands-on labs and final exam, will receive the FANUC CERT “Handling Tool Operations and Programming” Cert Level I.

The program, offered through NECC’s Center for Corporate and Community Education, is sponsored by a \$4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. For additional information, or to register for one of the information nights, call 978-556-3067 or 978-722-7054.

DCU OPENS MEMBER SERVICE CENTER IN METHUEN

Digital Federal Credit Union, better known as DCU, officially opened its new Member Service Center, located at 2 Broadway (Route 28) in Methuen, MA, on Monday, October 28th, 2019.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was attended by DCU members, city and state officials, local business owners, representatives from local charities that DCU supports, the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce, and members of DCU’s management team.

As part of DCU’s commitment to bettering the neighborhoods where its members live and work, DCU team members participated in several community-focused initiatives in Methuen and Lawrence, MA leading up to the Member Service Center’s grand opening.

The new Member Service Center encourages individuals to take control of their everyday banking transactions with three 24-hour indoor ATMs and a drive-up ATM to complete deposits, withdrawals, and transfers.

Additional Member Service Representatives are on-site to assist with the opening of new memberships, applying for loans, and to provide educational tips.

DCU’s Methuen location is staffed by 12 team members and is managed by Neslihan Erdogan Kazar. The Methuen Member Service Center is open Monday-to-Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

REPRESENTATIVE FRANK A. MORAN PRESENTS \$50,000 CHECK TO ARLINGTON COMMUNITY TRABAJANDO FOR FY20 BUDGET FUNDING

State Representative Frank A. Moran (D-Lawrence, Andover and Methuen) presented a check for \$50,000 to community development organization Arlington Community Trabajando (ACT Lawrence) this past week. Joined by fellow Lawrence delegation members Senator Barry Finegold and Representatives Christina Minicucci and Marcos Devers, the check presentation commemorated and celebrated the securing of funding to support community development initiatives at ACT Lawrence.

“ACT Lawrence has been doing incredible work in our community for a number of years now and I can’t say enough about the progress I have seen because of their existence. Ana Luna and the entire ACT Lawrence team is changing lives on a daily basis by ensuring members of our community are better equipped with the life skills they need to navigate daily life. I congratulate ACT Lawrence and I am proud to have secured this funding for such a worthy organization,” said Representative Moran.

ACT Lawrence will utilize the funding secured by a budget amendment to the

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 24

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Friday, November 29	9:00 am-9:00 pm
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Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley Issues Call For Santa’s Helpers

Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley (FKMV), a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of foster children in the Merrimack Valley, issues a call for Santa’s Helpers to support the Annual Foster Kids Christmas Party. The Santa’s Helpers is a volunteer program designed to anonymously match up individuals or groups from the local community with one or more foster children to help fulfill their Christmas wish lists. This program is part of the Annual Foster Kids Christmas Party organized by the FKMV, whereby age appropriate toys & clothing are distributed to local foster children. The Santa’s Helpers program provides a personalized, unique kind of gift-giving and creates a memorable holiday season for foster children. The Annual Christmas Party is scheduled in early December each year.

“The Annual Christmas Party has been a mainstay of the organization. I’m always amazed at how our community participation continues to grow. Last year, with the help of our Santa’s Helpers, we provided toys and gifts for more than 250 children and their respective foster parents.” stated Larry Giordano, President and Founder of the Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley. “The holidays are always difficult times for foster children, they often feel alone and disconnected from their families. We have high hopes that our community will step forward again and help support our local foster children and bring a smile to their faces again.”

What is a Santa’s Helper?

We are looking for volunteers including businesses and/or individuals to volunteer to be a Santa’s Helper and bring joy to a foster child this holiday season. Each Santa’s Helper will be

anonymously assigned a child and will receive a personal wish list for that child that includes personal items like clothing as well as toys.

The foster children participating in this program are ages birth to 12 years of age and are currently under the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in the Merrimack Valley, including Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover and the greater Haverhill region. Individuals, groups, or businesses may sign up to sponsor one child or more. Cash donations are accepted in lieu of receiving a Christmas wish list.

Program Details:

December 8th: All gifts are due and can be dropped off at:

Methuen Karate Association
70C Bonanno Court
Methuen, MA

Sign Up Information: To register as a Santa’s Helper, please contact

Email: santashelper@fosterkidsmv.org
Call: 978-771-2150

Wrapping Party: This year’s Wrapping Party is being held on Thursday, December 12 at St. Lucy’s Church Hall, 254 Merrimack St., Methuen beginning at 5:00 PM.

Other Donations Needed: In addition to being a Santa’s Helper, the FKMV are accepting in-kind donations for the Annual Christmas Party including Pizza and Beverages, Cookies, Holiday Decorations, Wrapping Paper, Tape, Scissors and more.

Cash donations may be sent directly to: Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.

Larry Giordano
P.O. Box 2166
Methuen, MA 01844 ♦

All Aboard to Honor Our Vietnam Veterans

Brian Genest
DRACUT COLUMNIST

If you’re reading this column, please thank a veteran for making it possible. Since our country’s founding nearly 250 years ago, our veterans have fought to protect and defend all our rights, including freedom of speech, at home and abroad. Some veterans, including those who served in the Vietnam War, are still fighting painful memories of the conflict and a less-than-welcoming welcome home.

But a group of Massachusetts veterans is trying to do something to change that. Veterans Assisting Veterans (VAV), a Lowell-based nonprofit group founded by area veterans to help fellow veterans, wants to send local Vietnam veterans to see the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

VAV is raising money to pay for 50 veterans to visit our nation’s capital for a weekend trip next fall to see the memorial, a massive wall of black granite slabs engraved with the names of more than 58,000 Americans who were killed or remain missing. The trip, called “On Track to the Wall,” will include a train ticket, lodging and food, so that each veteran can participate without having to pay a penny.

The trek to Washington, D.C. is designed to serve as a healing experience for the vets who deserved but didn’t get a proper welcome home back then, according to the VAV Spokesman John MacDonald.

“We’re going to ask people to gather outside and cheer for our Vietnam veterans when the train passes by,” MacDonald said. “The veterans didn’t get the proper welcome home before, but we want them to get it now.”

MacDonald pointed out the heavy toll the Vietnam War took on our country and on the generation of men and women who mostly didn’t ask to go to war, but who did so in support of our nation.

“The Vietnam War wasn’t supported by the public and the men and women in uniform returning to America took the brunt of our nation’s anger toward our government,” MacDonald added. “Our Vietnam veterans didn’t feel appreciated and they’ve suffered from that rejection. This trip is an opportunity to give these

veterans the reception that they should have gotten originally.”

Rick Green, co-owner of Westford-based 1A Auto, is the honorary chair of the trip for the Vietnam vets. Green’s father was based in Thailand during the Vietnam War.

One of the veterans who hopes to be able to make the trip to the memorial is Bobby Fairbairn. Fairbairn served four years in the U.S. Army as a Staff Sargent during the Vietnam War and experienced some of the fiercest and most deadly battles. In the Battle of Dak To, for example, 199 of his men were killed, including PFC John Barnes of Dedham. Barnes threw himself on a grenade, saving Fairbairn’s life, and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

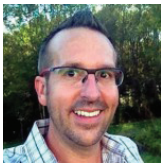
Like many Vietnam veterans, Fairbairn suffers from PTSD, cancer and other ailments related to his service to our country. Like many Vietnam veterans, despite those circumstances, he is committed to honoring those who didn’t make it home and to helping those who did.

“The visions of those days in Vietnam and the pain that comes along with it is still fresh and raw for so many men and women of Bobby’s generation,” MacDonald said. “Sending 50 of these deserving souls to the Vietnam War Memorial is the least Veterans Assisting Veterans and all of us can do to show our gratitude for their sacrifices on our behalf.”

To get more information about Veterans Assisting Veterans or make an online donation, visit the group’s website at VetsAssistingVets.org. The group will also soon be launching a GoFundMe page specifically to raise funds for the trip.

This Veterans’ Day, consider donating to this worthy cause as a way to honor and thank those who have served our nation in the Vietnam War. Late is truly better than never.

Brian Genest is chairman of the Dracut Republican Town Committee and a member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee representing the Second Essex & Middlesex District of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury. ♦



MAYOR: FROM PAGE 5

don’t repeat it. Trying to cover it up or pretending it didn’t happen does not work for me that’s not in my core DNA. So I’m not going to accept that from anyone else.”

“During the campaign, people talked a lot about who was behind me who was supporting me, and who was the puppet master. I’m a 38 year executive at Raytheon. It would’ve been very easy for me to just stay doing that. I’m taking a pay cut to do this job. I’ve seen comments on Facebook and some people struggled to

understand why I would leave a job that pays so well at Raytheon to do a job when the pay is only \$80,000 a year. There is no pile of Gold for me coming into the mayor’s office. This is about restoring my city and public service.”

“I’ve had a good career and I’ve been fortunate to be able to put all four of my kids to college. I’m 61 going on 62, I’m going to have a pension from Raytheon so I’m not just going to be living on the \$80,000 salary of the mayor.” ♦

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NECC's Dimitry Building is Rededicated

Nearly two years after it was closed for a \$6.5 million renovation, Northern Essex Community College's Dimitry Building at 45 Franklin St., Lawrence, was rededicated on Friday, November 1, with great fanfare.

NECC President Lane Glenn welcomed retired NECC President John Dimitry, for whom the building is named, his wife Audrey and daughter Jane, along with a full complement of legislators and local dignitaries.

In 1991, due to Dimitry's leadership, The Prudential Company made the extraordinary donation of 45 Franklin St., a 68,000 square foot building, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for use as a Lawrence Campus. Five years later, in 1996, it was dedicated to Dr. Dimitry.

Glenn noted that Northern Essex now occupies nearly a half-dozen buildings in Lawrence that serves some 3,000 Lawrence students as well as others. "We would not be here today without the vision of Dr. Dimitry," he said.

He credited Dimitry, who was the second president of NECC and served for 21 years, with spurring "dramatic growth and expanded academic offerings and creation of a Lawrence Campus."

Dimitry made numerous trips to the Massachusetts State House to convince legislators of the need for a Lawrence Campus. Following the Lawrence riots of 1984 the state launched the Lawrence Education Employment Project (LEEP) which eventually grew into the Lawrence Campus. Today the campus includes the Dr. Ibrahim El-Hefni Allied Health & Technology Center, 420 Common St., the Louise Haffner Fournier Education Center, and the John R. Dimitry Building.

"We are tremendously proud of what is happening in this building," Glenn said.

Among other improvements, there is

now a room that serves as "home base" for the hundreds of Early College students enrolled at NECC.

Carol Gladstone, Commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) said, "This building is a great example of what we are trying to do across the Commonwealth."

Massachusetts has many other buildings that were also built in the 1970s and 1980s and in need of renovations or undergoing renovations, she said.

"What a great space this is. It's inviting. It's simple but effective," she said. "This will be a great building for many years to come for you."

Rep. Frank Moran told President Dimitry, "Today is a great day. This building carries your legacy and your leadership. NECC is a shining example of what our community stands for."

In addition, Moran thanked Glenn for his vision of making Lawrence a "college town."

Lawrence mayor Dan Rivera said he remembers when the building was owned by Prudential Insurance as his sister worked there.

"To see it renewed as a great viable building where education happens is great," he said.

Dr. Noemi Custodia-Lora, vice president Lawrence campus and community relations said the building primarily services first generation Hispanics who are working more than one job. She said the renovated atrium with its seating and Coco Ray's satellite restaurant is helpful to both students and staff. While students use the space to socialize and study, staff are readily available to answer questions and direct them to the resources they need.



Pollard Speaks Out About Being Attacked During Mayoral Campaign

Through much of the mayoral campaign in Methuen, those who supported Jen Kannan and indeed Jen herself tried to make the election about the fact that former mayor Sharon Pollard was supporting Neil Perry. Her name was thrown around by the Kannan supporters as if Pollard was some kind of puppet master and that she was going to control Neil Perry if he won.

We caught up to Pollard on election night after the votes were counted and asked her about it.

Since most of this campaign seemed to be about you and nobody has asked you what you think about all this, I thought I would ask. What DO you think about it?

"Yeah isn't that the craziest thing you've ever heard? The difficulty with a race like this is that it was so negative, and destructive on many levels because the Kannan Campaign didn't talk about the people of the city."

"They didn't offer anything positive or talk about her agenda for the city. Instead, her supporters made the determination that they were going to talk about Neil's workers and backers. It was a failed strategy from the start and I often wondered why they did it, because it really didn't make any sense. I think that has borne fruit that it was a failed strategy if you look at the numbers."

"You never do that. You talk about an agenda that you have for the city and what's good about you and your candidacy and what you have to offer. You never go negative. Maybe sometimes with your opponent's positions and issues you want to disagree with them, but you never go negative about people's supporters and workers. I think it's just fairly bizarre that that is the road that they went down."

"I know this city. I was born here and lived here my whole life. I love what happens here. I try to make a positive impact in many ways to help the city out and help the people who live and work here. I'm not so sure it was a good idea for them to start picking on people who are only campaign supporters."

I asked her now that it is over, if Neil Perry is going to be her puppet and if she has any strings behind his back.

"Neil is a person with an agenda for the city and has a very strong personality. He

has good concepts and ideas about what he wants to do in the city and people really gravitated toward that. All we did, the people who helped him, was try to give him some advice, some wisdom, help him think through some of the things that were important to him so that he could make this a good election and have an impact."

So, you are not going to be the de facto mayor behind the curtain making all the real decisions?

Laughing

"No. Absolutely not. I had my time.

People have been asking me ever since I left office, 'why don't you run again'? and I have always said 'no this is not for me. I did my time.'"

"This was a good race [on the Perry side] and it was nice to see some people being very positive about the people they were supporting and encouraging them to run a nice campaign and talk about what was important to the city. That was what was missing on the other side of this mayor's race."

"There was no dialogue on the other side about what was important to them and what people wanted to do for the City of Methuen. So, when you have an agenda for the city and you can speak positively about the city and you stay on the positive side, that message always wins. Neil wanted to run a very positive campaign. So many of those who supported Mrs. Kannan weren't doing that. One of those people working for the other Campaign had asked me to hire their son and I was happy to do it, so it was disappointing to see that that was one of the people attacking me personally. That was pretty interesting."

"Each of those people that I supported came to me and asked me for that support. They asked for financial help. They asked for my advice and I gave it to them."

Are you excited about Allie Saffi winning in the West District for city council?

"Yes, very excited. I was 26 when I was sworn into the senate, and Allie is 26. She is a bright young woman who has great ideas and isn't afraid to speak about them. And she wants to name names. I'm just thrilled for her as a woman helping a young woman to achieve great things. She's going to be wonderful on the council. ◇



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Education Reform

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,
It has been 25 years since the state’s education funding formula has been updated. A lack of reform has left school districts significantly underfunded, with insufficient support for special education, English-language learner programs, and school building construction and renovation, among other areas.

That is why I am so pleased to have recently joined my colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate in unanimously passing bipartisan, landmark legislation, the Student Opportunity Act. This is a comprehensive bill that will have a positive impact on our public schools in the Merrimack Valley and across Massachusetts.

The Student Opportunity Act makes unprecedented, necessary investments in our local K-12 education – including transportation, special education, and school infrastructure - to ensure our school districts have the resources they need to provide students with the highest quality education, regardless of income level or zip code.

School districts in our region will greatly benefit from long overdue updates to the state’s outdated funding formula. These policy reforms will help to monitor and measure progress, support impactful approaches to closing opportunity gaps, and deliver the results our students deserve.

In addition to implementing formula changes, the Student Opportunity Act provides much needed state financial support in several areas to help public schools and communities. The legislation fully funds charter school tuition reimbursement, providing sufficient transitional aid to help districts when students leave to attend charter schools; increases reimbursements to districts for extraordinary special education costs; bolsters funding for English-language learner programs; and enables additional investment in school building construction and renovation projects.



In addition, the bill establishes a Rural Schools Commission to examine the unique enrollment and other challenges faced by our rural and regional school districts.

The Student Opportunity Act charges the state with holding up its end of the bargain to pay its fair share for mandates on our local schools. It’s about time.

I am proud to have voted in support of this important bill and am committed to continuing to advocate for it moving forward in the legislative process.

If you have questions about this or any legislation currently being examined on Beacon Hill, please feel free to contact me via email at diana.dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone at (617) 722-1604.

Yours in service,
Diana ♦

ENTREPRENEURS: FROM 2

he actively participates from, referring to it as a tough one. In the latter, he has learned that is as important to diligently trim your properties’ trees and cleaning its space’s trash, as any other executive activity.

Janin Duran, the Executive Director of EParaTodos, EforAll’s Spanish branch in Lawrence, has a shifted perspective.

Her main goal is to follow the mission of the organizations she works for, which is to accelerate economic and social impact through entrepreneurship in mid-sized cities. After founding EParaTodos in 2013, and the first business accelerator program in Spanish within nation, in 2015, she has worked incessantly to develop the Latino business community in a comprehensive fashion. By creating a 14 weeks intensive program, in which the organization teaches participants about marketing, branding, communications, business models and even accounting.

She advocates for the Latino entrepreneurs, parting from the influence they already have in the region’s economy. She has promoted networking events in which she brings keynotes speakers for the public, free of charge. Constantly informs the entrepreneurs of opportunities available in other organizations.

Even connects them with mentors, that assist the business owners to-be, through the process of structuring their start-up efficiently.

As of today, the EParaTodos entrepreneurs have generated \$903,000 in sales. 82% of the program participants are currently active in the market, and an estimate of 100 employments have been created with \$500,000 in revenue attained.

The Economist Joseph Schumpeter described the action of being an entrepreneur as a force of creative destruction. The entrepreneur has to change established trends, pursue new markets, chase new methods of production, and improve circumstances to foster new undertakings.

There are many implications that occur while attempting to exploit a new commercial opportunity. One of them is understanding that a business does not operate in a vacuum.

There’s a need for social responsibility, a good relationship with its immediate environment- with the people one serves. In today’s market, sole profit is not the answer to success, but a business ability to create and maintain healthy-mutually-beneficial relationships with their customers, the public, and other organizations in its niche. ♦

Thank You to All Our Veterans

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

This Veterans Day, we express our sincerest gratitude to the men and women who have given, and the 1% of our nation who continue to give, so much to defend and protect our great country. We recognize their excellence, their strength, and their contributions, but also their sacrifices and their struggles. We acknowledge that too many Veterans face homelessness, poverty, substance addiction, and post-traumatic stress – and we recommit ourselves to tackling these issues head-on.

Massachusetts continues to lead the nation in caring for our Veterans, providing real and tangible support above what the federal government provides - and we will continue to do so.

The Committee on Veteran and Federal Affairs has held numerous public hearings this session on Veteran-related legislation. We have begun to determine which bills will have a positive impact and are possible to implement. One theme that has emerged is the need to provide more support for Post-Traumatic Stress treatment.

We are fortunate in Massachusetts to be home to the national leader in evidence-based PTS treatment for Veterans and their families. The Home Base Program, a partnership of Massachusetts General Hospital and the Red Sox Foundation, is the largest private-sector clinic in the country dedicated to healing the invisible wounds of war for Veterans, Service Members, and Military Families. Based in the Charlestown Navy Yard, Home Base has used their highly effective treatment model to serve over 21,000 Veterans and family members, all at no cost to their patients. They have also trained over 73,000 clinicians, first responders, and community providers across the state on

best practices for Veteran care, ensuring that many more Veterans have access to compassionate care right in their own communities.

The State Legislature and Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs have developed a strong working relationship with Home Base, and we are actively working to expand their treatment model statewide. The Legislature allocated \$500,000 in last year’s state budget and \$1.3 million in this year’s state budget to help Home Base expand their efforts. Part of this funding will be used for a statewide suicide prevention campaign for Veterans, an urgently needed initiative.

It was a privilege to recognize Home Base on the House floor in October in honor of their 10-year anniversary. I was proud to present Home Base leaders with a House resolution commending them for their advances in the field of Veterans’ mental health care and for their contributions to thousands of Veterans and family members across the Commonwealth and nationwide. I look forward to continuing this partnership to make mental health services accessible for all our Veterans, especially those living outside of the greater Boston area.

To all our Veterans – especially our Vietnam Veterans, who did not receive the “welcome home” they deserved – Welcome Home - and to the 1% currently serving: thank you for all you have done for our Nation.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents Methuen & Haverhill in the State Legislature and serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans & Federal Affairs. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2380. ♦

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The night after the November 5th election, newly elected Methuen Mayor Neil Perry was in Lawrence at the TMF Family Dinner for the Homeless. Perry spoke with Michael Gorman (the head of TMF) about the possibility of servicing Methuen residents who become homeless. Perry also put on some gloves and spent two hours passing out food to the homeless and talking to people about the tremendous resources that come together at the TMF weekly event.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

SANTA PARADE

November 30th
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Map can be found on the
North Andover Festival Committee
FaceBook Page!

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December 15th

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Jenny Teator's New Video: Daughter of the Devil



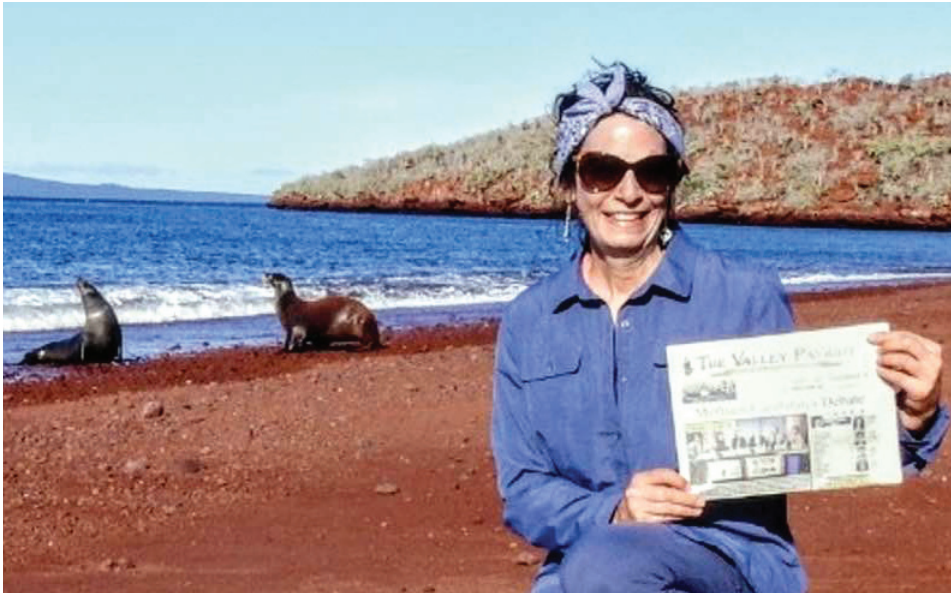
On Youtube.com



Newly elected Methuen City Councilors DJ Beauregard (At-Large), Allison Saffie and Mike Simard (both representing the West End) celebrating their election wins at the Fireside.



Sparks were flying at the Paying Attention! Podcast Methuen mayoral debate between Jen Kannan and Neil Perry. Paying Attention! is recorded in front of a live studio audience at the Studio 21 Podcast Cafe in Salem NH.



VALLEY PATRIOT AROUND THE WORLD: Former Valley Patriot columnist Christine Morabito with her Valley Patriot while on an excursion in the Galapagos Islands.



Methuen City Council At-Large Candidate DJ Beauregard dressed like a butterfly at his daughter's birthday party. Beauregard said that he is willing to dress up as anything to make his little girl smile. It's clear with such a photo, Dave will not be running for Methuen mayor any time soon.



Methuen City Councilor At-Large Jessica Finocchiaro may be controversial at the city council table but the voters LOVE HER. Finocchiaro came in first in the at-large city council race.



Lawrence School Committee Member Donna Bertolino with Frank at Salvatore's Restaurant in Lawrence with their copy of The Valley Patriot.

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Prospect Hill's Andrew Bochart jumps on Mark Roberge's drum stage during a concert at Wally's last month.

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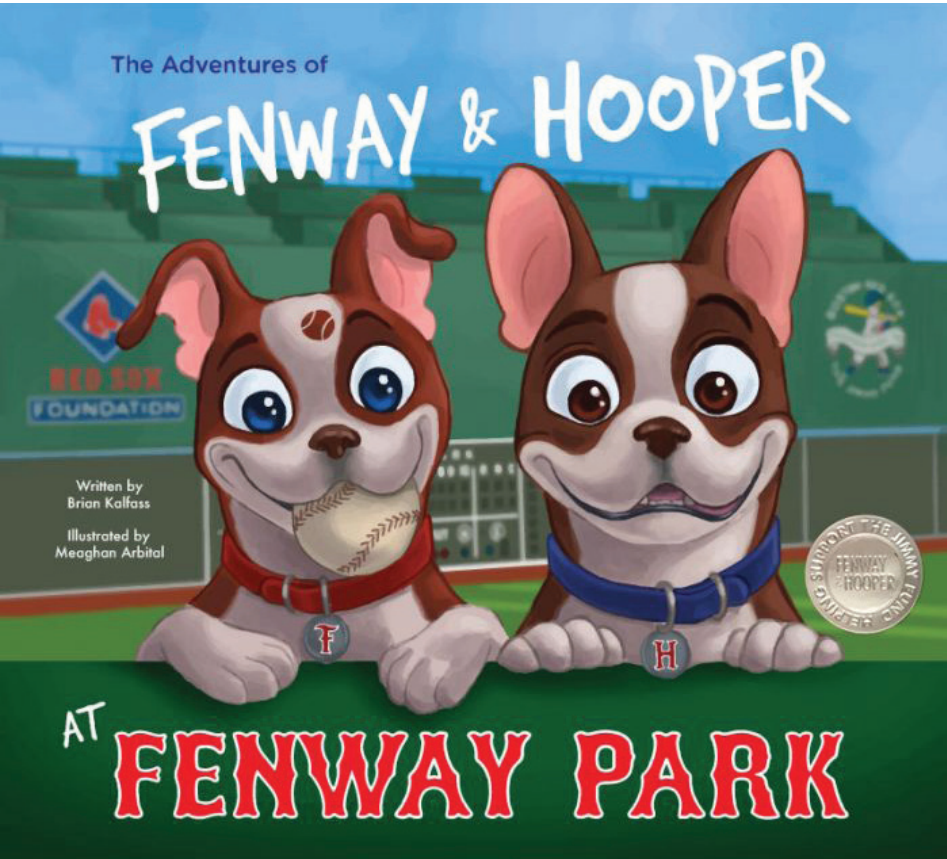
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Shawn Hansen’s Book Corner with Brian Klafass

To those out there who are faithful fans of the Boston Red Sox, have no worries that the 2019 season ended without a playoff run, because they did win four titles this century (so far) making them the most winningest team in all of baseball!

Brian Kalfass of Baldwinsville, New York is a huge Red Sox fan... despite being from the Empire State!

The proud father of four, Kalfass’ oldest son, Zachary was diagnosed with juvenile pilocytic astrocytoma cancer at age five and had three brain surgeries in his life.

Developing the idea of writing a book entitled “The Adventures of Fenway & Hooper at Fenway Park” in 2009, Kalfass said he wanted to put his mind at ease during the tough time his family was going through at the time, and write a book about Fenway Park that he could sell later once published to raise money for The Jimmy Fund and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Kalfass said his son is 23-years old now and “received a two-year degree, works full-time and is currently working toward a career in the electrician trade.” In remission for the past nine-years, he is closely monitored annually with MRIs and check-ups and will be for the rest of his life due to the cancer relapse.

The book Kalfass published this year (in 2019) is based on his two Boston Terrier dogs named Fenway and Hooper. Fenway was respectively named after our beloved cathedral, Fenway Park, which opened its doors in 1912, and Hooper was named after Hall of Fame player Harry Hooper who played 17-years with the Red Sox from 1909-1925, winning four World Series titles.

The masterpiece Kalfass put together

is brilliant as Red Sox fans of all ages can learn about the Red Sox and Fenway Park through “Fenway Facts” that are featured on every page.

Getting lost at Fenway, Hooper tells his brother different things about the ballpark when they either walk or run by it, and explains what their names came from.

It is with a high recommendation that everyone purchases The Adventures of Fenway & Hooper at Fenway Park because it supports a phenomenal cause, and has a great story about our beloved Fenway Park and team, the Boston Red Sox!

The playful illustrated book of Fenway & Hooper being lost at Fenway Park is \$24.99.

“It’s our family’s way to help give back to other families in need,” said Kalfass. “It’s our goal to raise \$100,000 and give it all back.”

From every book that is sold, \$2.00 will go to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for pediatric and adult cancer research and \$1.00 will go to the Red Sox Foundation to help others in need.

Interested in buying this book? Go to www.fenwayandhooper.com or visit Fenway and Hooper on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. This book is available to buy at Barnes & Noble, The Paper Store, Wegmans, Wahlburgers, Boston Best Store and the Big Y amongst other locations.

Shawn M. Hansen has been a Sports & Entertainment journalist with the Valley Patriot newspaper since 2009. He is a Full-Time Real Estate Agent at CENTURY 21 Advance Realty, so if you or anyone you know are looking to SELL or BUY property anywhere in Massachusetts, call 978-621-6763 today! ♦

Sue Piazza’s Book Corner

“Book of Shadows: (A Thriller)” by Alexandra Sokoloff

© 2010 by Alexandra Sokoloff
Kindle Edition 308 pages
5. Bookmarkers
Genre: Murder Mystery

The daughter of scientists, Alexandra Sokoloff is the winner of a Thriller Award. She has been nominated for the Bram Stoker and Anthony Award. The author of eleven crime, supernatural and paranormal thrillers, her Huntress/FBI series is an Amazon bestseller.

Besides writing novels and short fiction, she is the author of books relating to the craft of Screenwriting. In this capacity she has sold horror and thriller scripts as well as adaptations for Hollywood studios.

Book of Shadows: (A Thriller) deals with the murder of a high profile, prominent family’s daughter. Found in a trash dump missing her head and one of her hands it quickly becomes obvious to the two Boston homicide detectives, Adam Garrett and Carl Landauer, that the disturbing case was about to cause a media sensation. A drop of black beeswax left on the body presents a subtle clue.

As the crime scene investigators clear debris from around the corpse, they notice that someone had carved the numbers 333 into her chest and the shape of three triangles their points touching each other. The symbols for radiation.

Weirder yet wildflowers, a short distance from the corpse, were singed as if by fire. This was accompanied by a strong smell of sulfur. Belladonna, black beeswax candles, a dagger, and a sword lead the detectives to Salem, MA.

Misdirection and more cadavers fuel the plot. All the dead are missing the same body parts. The serial killer taunts the police by giving them the date of his next murders. The day posts an immediacy that makes for a great page turner. It is also in keeping with the time of year – Halloween, or in the jargon of the Wiccan – Samhain, that time of year that the veil between the worlds is at its thinnest.

The perp was either someone who dabbled in the dark side or someone who hoped the police would consider the crime one perpetuated by someone who followed the black arts.

The men quickly become embroiled in a religion and lifestyle that they had no knowledge of and did not necessarily believe in or understand.

What I loved about this book was the extensive knowledge that this author has regarding the Wiccan religion. The way she perverts the wisdom to fit into the murderer’s psyche is well done.

The title for this work takes its name from a book, a type of diary, kept by Wiccans. It is one’s personal record of spells, and one’s personal instructions for one’s magical rituals.

The cover design was appealing. This, and the title, were what prompted me to read this book to begin with. It did not disappoint.

From the first page we are introduced to the expressive imagery and language of the author. Her visuals are so detailed that one cannot help but see the visions she puts on paper. “Caterpillar trucks and front loaders with metal jaws gaping, like gigantic prehistoric insects on the mountains of trash, an appalling chaos of rotting vegetables, discarded ...”

Her character development shares her dramatic wording “... whisky-drinking donut-eating Landauer, a living, breathing amalgam of every cop cliché known to man: middle-aged spread, broad sweating face, and bawdy, cynical humor, a lifer who used the caricature as a disguise.”

It was a pleasure to read the string of words that make up such a tapestry of color and coordination.

I found this book entertaining, enlightening, and disturbing. It is a good read that I would definitely recommend.

In addition to this narrative the author gives us a glimpse into a few of her other works at the back of the book: “Huntress Moon: Book 1 of the Thriller Award-Nominated Huntress/FBI Series” and a preview of “The Harrowing,” and “The Price.”

Susan Piazza is an author, columnist, and blogger. She can be found at susanpiazzaauthor.com You can read the Introduction and Prologue to her soon to be released ebook “A Bird Call That Isn’t” under the blog of the same name. Also, check out the blog posts Abigail, the main female character, has begun to write. ♦



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Methuen Superior Officers Claims Retaliation Over Contract Dispute

As part of the ongoing arbitration between the Methuen Superior Officer's Union and the cCity of Methuen, the union is asking for a financial award of damages for what they say is retaliation.

The superior officers says that there is a pattern of actionable claims against the city for unfair labor practices including releasing the social security numbers and dates of birth of superior officers and their families during public records requests.

The union also says that the city failed to fill positions which increases the liability for superior officers as well as their workload, while at the same time filling positions in other city departments.

Part of the union's unfair labor practice claims are what they call defamatory statements by city councilors Saba and McCarty in violation of the Massachusetts Fair Labor Act; MGL ch 150E collective bargaining law covering unfair labor practices.

The union is requesting damages but did not specify an amount.

"This has been happening since early last year," union president Greg Gallant told The Valley Patriot. "They failed to fund custodial hours during weekends, failed to fund cleaning supplies and I know it sounds silly but we are running out of toilet paper in the department. This is what this administration has been doing in the last two years. We wrote email after email asking for cleaning supplies, to fill positions, etc., but the mayor's office just refuses to respond."

Gallant says they also had several grievances during last year that went to the last step of going before the mayor and he just refuses to reply.

DEFAMATION

Gallant said that his frustration with two members of the city council could cost the city money. "Councilor McCarty has made defamatory statement where he

continues specifically to state that there was a criminal conspiracy and criminal activity taking place during the negotiation of the 2017 contract negotiations. These are statements he must know are not true or he should know they are not true. There were never two different contracts with different language to deceive anyone or conspire to commit a crime. We do have a civil attorney at this point gathering information." Gallant added that there may be a separate suit as the result.

A NEW COUNCIL

"We want to congratulate the new mayor and all the new incoming councilors who won this week. We are looking forward to the opportunity of working with them all in a new political environment where facts and data will be presented and decisions will be made based on those facts and that data. Whereas, up until now it has been based on emotions and rumors and innuendo and statements

that parties know or should know are not true but continue to be repeated."


WHEN BINDING ISN'T BINDING?

"McCarty said during an interview with a local blogger that arbitration is not final and binding but it is. I don't know where he's getting his information but in my contract it says we have final and binding arbitration rights as part of our final grievance process.

WHO ASKED FOR CONTINUANCE

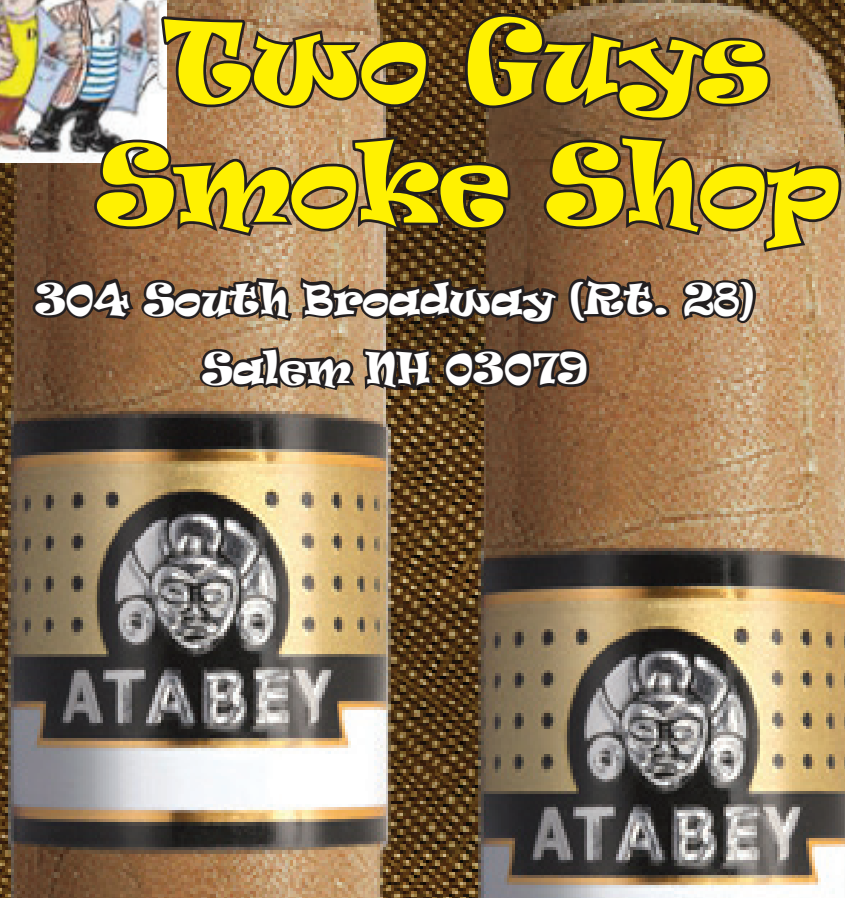
Gallant also says that comments by Saba and McCarty that the union pushed back the date of arbitration isn't true.

"Councilor Saba said that the union wanted to push the hearing for arbitration to December. But, that's not true. We wanted it held right away. It was the city that requested the delay, not us. The arbitrator allowed the delay over our objections. We wanted this settled as soon as possible to give closure to everyone on this matter. We wanted it resolved as quickly as possible. ◇



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Lion Air Crash Report Destroys Leape’s Fake Dogma

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

In order to provide the intellectual pretext for the takeover of the profession of medicine by conglomerates and the destruction of physicians committed to their patients and profession, Lucian Leape fabricated the fake dogma that doctors are just like pilots and must also be turned into compliant, replaceable, cogs.

This fake dogma consciously ignores the plain fact that patients are not engineered aircraft, all interchangeable in the standard socialist fashion, as fungible as the doctors assigned to treat them, wherein it matters not if you don’t see the same doctor every time because the electronic chart is all we need.

The crash of two Boeing 737-8 MAX aircraft proved this dogma to be as much a fraud as Leape himself, but I expect this lesson to be concealed. The Lion Air crash report has been released. Good luck reading about it in a “care quality and patient safety” rag.

The 737 MAX did not behave as expected from the manual. Why? Because Boeing said “Information or procedures not directly related to airworthiness or not under the control of the crew must not be included, nor must any procedure that is accepted as basic airmanship.”

Meaning 737 MAX pilots were more like doctors than they realized. They had to deal with something that did not come in the manual, you know, like the patient that just walked in. And the pilots crashed the plane.

All the CRM and non-disruptive compliance with checklists did not save the passengers. The black box recorded the pilots going through checklists. There has been a deafening silence from Atul Gawande on this point. After all, what checklist does he have for individual patients who have no manuals?

Turns out that just the day before the crash this particular patient, the Lion Air 737 MAX, had shown the same behavior that was not in the manual. That time the cockpit contained a third pilot who helped the two regular pilots deal with something not in the manual, and they did not crash the plane.

The report states: “The flight crew of



the previous LNI043 flight took around 3 minutes and 40 seconds after 12 MCAS activations to come up to the solution of the problem by performing stabilizer trim cut-out, while in the accident flight the flight crew did not manage to find the solution.” “The FAA and OEMs should re-evaluate their assumptions for what constitutes an average flight crew’s basic skill and what level of systems knowledge a ‘properly trained average flight crew’ has when encountering failures.”

Ah yes, basic airmanship. Wait, you mean preventing plane crashes actually depends on the professional skills of individual pilots? And with different pilots you get different results? Wow, who knew!

Now, given that the pilots just the day before had successfully solved the same problem that was not in the manual, you would think that would have been broadcast far and wide within Lion Air at least, if not the wider 737 MAX community.

Nope. When the pilots handed off the MAX the day earlier, they did not even mention the solution - cut out the trim switch - because it was not in the manual! It was not on any checklist! And pilots have long gone from independent members of a profession to a Joe Punch-Clock. Any burned-out physician would perform better than a product of pilot training schools.

No fortress has ever fallen to the enemy without a man on the inside. When it comes to the fortress of the medical profession, the enemy within were Leape and Gawande bearing models and false gods. The fortress has fallen, but medicine still hasn’t sunk as low as piloting, yet. Medicine can still, and must, be saved. ◇

Your Health with Rick Bellanti

A Happy, Healthy Thanksgiving

Rick Bellanti
HEALTH & WELLNESS COLUMNIST

Now that Halloween is over and we jump right into taking our healthy eating into November and our next “food” holiday: Thanksgiving. It is easy to see why this is one of American’s favorite holidays because for most people it’s a time for family reunions, time with friends and over-eating without the guilt. But if you are on a healthy eating journey, it’s best to treat it like any other day and stay focused.

Being healthy is something most people would like to be all the time, but this time of year can be overwhelming and difficult for some to get through. Let’s face it the Fall is all about smells, from the popular pumpkin spice, to roasting turkeys and baking desserts. The last two months of the year is focusing on holiday cheer which includes lots of gatherings to celebrate with family, friends and even co-workers. Most of these gatherings will focus around food and drinking; it doesn’t have to be all bad though. The goal should be to enjoy the holidays without the guilt or weight gain. I’m here to tell you it can be done. We all want to enjoy our meal without increasing our waistline in the process.

With a little focus and some work, you can get through the holidays and make all your hard work you put in this year pay off. Your knowledge goes a long way when it comes to eating the right foods, especially at holiday gatherings. Look at the table of food, don’t take any yet, survey the whole layout of all the dishes. Now, using some of the tools you’ve learned over the last year or so, decide which ones have less sugar, or less fat and of course less calories. Next look and see how certain food dishes are made, are they fried in oil, slathered in butter, grilled or baked? Make the right choices!

The Main Attraction: The Turkey. Lucky for us, the main course is a healthy one, which is a great way to start off your meal in a healthy way. Here are some tips for eating turkey the healthy way, first, don’t ever eat the skin, even though it looks delicious, turkey skin is very high in fat and not the good kind of fat our

body needs. Stick to turkeys baked in the oven rather than deep fried for less fat / oil content as well. Stick to white meat when eating turkey, it has few calories and fat per serving.

Make your plate colorful and fun with lots of different

vegetables, such as carrots, green beans, peas, squash and broccoli. Stay away from loading your plate with boring white color, such as pastas, potatoes, rice etc. If you are going to have soup, stay away from thick, creamy type soups and stick with broth based soups.

I highly recommended staying away from sodas, coffee and alcoholic beverages, adding unnecessary calories and sugars. Drinking lots of water throughout the day will keep you hydrated but also full, so you’ll want to eat less.

When you are done eating, it is best to get up from the table and move to another room away from the food area, that way you will be tempted less to pick on foods even when you are not hungry (just because they are there in front of you).

They call it a Thanksgiving feast for a reason, so enjoy yourself with family and friends, don’t overindulge and use the holiday as an excuse, stay focused on your health - After all, being stuffed is a good idea, but only if you are the turkey! Happy Holidays everyone.

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 240lbs, and has lost 160lbs since the start of 2015. You can find Rick on Facebook at: Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti ◇



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ABBY'S TEEN TALK

Closure, Sadness, But Moving On
Presentation of Mary Academy

Abigail Juknavorian – November 2019

My school is closing. It was a rainy Wednesday night when students and parents, including myself, found out that at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, Presentation of Mary Academy in Methuen would be closing its doors forever. The night, filled with emotion and sorrow for the loss of a school we've all grown to love and appreciate during our time there, was nothing but a mere moment that would then turn into an unbelievable day of love, support, and reminiscing.

It was sixty years ago that the Presentation of Mary Academy opened its doors. Initially, as an all-girls school, PMA was small but mighty. It was only just the beginning of a long story of education and memories. Now, PMA means so much more to the community than just a school. It's a safe haven of sorts. It is a place for the kids who don't like sports or aren't into big crowds. I know that's why I choose to attend. On my first day at PMA, I was beyond nervous. I assumed it would be like every typical high school I'd seen on tv, loud and full of people who don't care to help you. Instead, I walked into a place full of welcoming people. I quickly realized that Presentation wasn't like other schools, it was the best decision I have ever made.

The day after the news was delivered to students and families, the school became a canvas. Instead of students moping around all day and keeping to themselves, there was a constant flow of hugs and love. The hallways were littered with sticky notes and posters, reading things like, "you got this!" and "we are a family and families stick together!" It was a heartwarming way for students to show how much they supported one another and how much they truly wanted to stick together.

While to impact of PMA's closure may not seem like a big one, it really is. Instead of students looking forward to college and the rest of their high school careers, they have to focus on transferring schools and making new friends. As time goes on, however, every wound will heal. As long as us PMA kids stick together (as we've always done), there's nothing in life that we can't accomplish.

MassHire Merrimack Valley Work-
force Board Awarded \$257,078To Lead
HealthCare Training Partnership

LAWRENCE — MassHire Merrimack Valley Workforce Board (MMVWB) will partner with the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center (GLFHC) and Lawrence General Hospital (LGH) to offer occupational skills training to current entry-level employees. The Medical Assistant Training (MAT) Program will enable employers to upskill their employees and fill MA vacancies critical to maintaining high quality services, while employees will gain access to better paying career pathway jobs. This project will be funded by a Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grant (Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund FY'19 Appropriation) through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development; it is administered by the Commonwealth Corporation.

"Both GLFHC and LGH deliver critical services to Merrimack Valley residents" said State Senator Barry Finegold. "I am proud to advocate for state programs that help these institutions and their staff."

The MAT Program will train 30 existing workers that employers will recruit and recommend for participation. Greater Lawrence Technical High School will offer the training starting late this fall through next spring, as well as in fall 2020. It will consist of a 300 hour occupational skills training followed by 140

hours of clinical training at each of the partnering facilities, and end with the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) exam.

"Medical Assistants play such an important role in our patients' lives and they are often seen as the first point of contact for many of them" said Ann Marie Borgesi, Senior Vice President, Chief Administrative and Human Resources Officer at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center. "The opportunity to participate in a program like this will not only allow us to invest in our current staff, but also enhance the delivery of the best healthcare in the region to the 60,000 plus patients we serve in the Greater Lawrence region."

Robin Hynds, Chief Clinical Integration Officer at Lawrence General stated: "We pride ourselves in our ability to support staff as they look to advance within LGH. These funds will go a long way in helping LGH strengthen staff capacity and ultimately the work that we do on behalf of our patients."

"Health Care is the region's largest industry, and it continues to grow" said MMVWB Executive Director Abel Vargas. "The MMVWB has a unique role in developing programs that support our regional partners to ensure access to a trained workforce."

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BENEATH THE SURFACE

Loving the Dead

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT MORALITY COLUMNIST



All of us know people who have died, whom we will never forget. November in the Christian tradition is dedicated to commemorating the dead. What does this mean?

Virtually all cultures and societies since the dawn of man have believed in an after-life. We know this through cave paintings and artifacts buried with the dead beginning some 70,000 years ago. Greek philosophers were able to reason that there is a part of our nature that survives bodily death – the part that can: a) grasp immaterial objects (thoughts, ideas and concepts), b) freely choose to act contrary to our physical and emotional desires, and c) know and reflect on the self. Physical bodies eventually disintegrate and die, but that which is immaterial does not.

An intuitive knowledge of life after death is a universal human phenomenon. Throughout history, including within the pagan world, forms of ancestor worship were common. Along with symbolic language and art, religion separates us from the animal kingdom. Each of these – language, art and religion – point to extra-physical (or immaterial) attributes.

Christians believe in the immortality of the human soul, but also in the resurrection of the body. Yet, until the resurrection at the end of history, we assume our dead ancestors and loved ones exist as disembodied souls. Catholics recognize three destinies for souls after death, only two of which are permanent: heaven, hell, and purgatory.

Those who end up in heaven will be forever free to experience the everlasting joy of the five great yearnings for which the human heart longs: perfect truth, goodness, beauty, love, and the sense of home. These are natural yearnings not attained in this life, satisfied only in heaven where “[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain (Rv 21:4). Only here does the human heart attain its fulfillment. Hell, on the other hand, is for those who choose self over God, their own will over God’s will – by stubborn rationalization, denial, and hatred. They refuse to repent of their selfishness despite all the opportunities God has given them.

How do we commemorate? Those in heaven do not need our prayers. They have finished the race and have received their crowns. We honor them and ask their intercession for us on our journey. Those in hell also cannot use our prayers,

for they have chosen their everlasting destiny, continuous misery, forever fixed by their own stubborn will to choose self over God. They stew in hatred of all that is good: “wailing and grinding their teeth” (Mt 22:13) in “the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Mt 25:41).

Why does Scripture and Tradition inform us, then, that it is important to pray (and fast) for the dead if prayer is needless for those in heaven and useless for those in hell? Purgatory is the answer. It is temporary, for all those who died in the state of grace but are in need of purgation.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church on purgatory: “All who die in God’s grace, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven” (1030).

We must distinguish here between the guilt of sin and the effects of sin. Grace in the Sacrament of Confession cleanses from guilt, while prayer, sacrifice and penance are needed to be purged of its effects. If there has not been enough penance in this life to pay this price, more will be needed after death, in purgatory; for nothing imperfect can enter the gates of heaven (Rv 21:27).

This month reminds Christians that prayers, works, and sufferings can be offered in union with Christ’s crucifixion to the Father for the atonement of each other’s sins, including those in purgatory. Since we do not know who is in heaven (except for canonized saints), in purgatory or in hell, it is reasonable to pray both for living so that they may be reconciled to the God, and for the dead that they may be loosed and purified from the effects of their sins (2 Mac 12:43-46).

Paul Murano teaches philosophy and theology and is talk host of Beneath the Surface radio videocast and podcast. Paul’s website is Paulmurano.com. Email him at PJDM@aol.com.

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Why I Am Thankful For The Holy Spirit!

Peter Larocque
RELIGION COLUMNIST

I begin once again where we left off last month by asking the question, how is Jesus with us always, even to the ends of the world? The answer is very clear, Jesus is with us always by way of the Holy Spirit. Jesus prayed to His Father as we read in John 14:16, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;” The keyword in this verse is the word, “Another”. In the Greek there are two words for the word another, they are Hetros and Allos. Hetros means another of a different kind and Allos means another of the same kind. In John 14:16, the Greek word allos is used, so in essence, Jesus was saying that he would pray to His Father to send someone who was just like him, of the same kind who is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit or Spirit of Christ is Jesus in his unlimited form!

This is also why Jesus said that it was to our advantage that He would go back to His Father. At the time of this prayer, Jesus was limited, He could be only at one place at one time. The Comforter, The Holy Spirit which God would send can be anywhere at any time especially where there is a born-again believer. This we read in John 14:17, “Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

Then Jesus went on to say in John 14:26, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” The Holy Spirit Will Teach Us All Things! All things mean exactly that, “All Things” The Holy Spirit can be involved in every category of our lives leading and teaching us, all we need to do is allow him to have that place. The Holy Spirit doesn’t move where he is not wanted. But on the other hand, every once in a while, he does give us a gentle nudge and prompting to move us in the right direction. But the ultimate decision to adhere to that nudge and prompting is totally up to us.

There is another aspect of the Holy Spirit that I want to bring to your attention which is not mentioned a lot and that is the effect on our mortal bodies that takes place once the Holy Spirit takes up residence inside us. Take a look at this verse found in Romans 8:11, “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from

the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” The word “quicken” means to, stimulate, excite, stir up, rouse, waken. In essence, to make alive! WOW!

What God wants us to know is that the same Spirit of God that raised Jesus Christ from the dead, now dwells in us and this same Spirit makes our mortal bodies alive! In other words, this Spirit of God in us has a real lasting physical effect on our bodies today, now!

The Bible also says that our bodies are the Temple of God! We have God in Christ in us which is the Holy Spirit and we don’t have to wait until we get to Heaven for this to have an effect on us! Take a look at these verses, 2 Corinthians 6:16-18, “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” And,

Ephesians 2:21-22, “In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

So, by way of the Holy Spirit, we are God’s Habitation and God’s temple, God’s dwelling place!

With God choosing to dwell in us, you can now clearly see why this would have an effect on our bodies physically!

Why isn’t this talked about much? Why don’t we hear about this from our pulpits today? The answer is very simple, the god of this world wants the Holy Spirit to be the Christian’s best-kept secret. He would much rather have Christians today having the mindset of wishing Jesus was physically still here. This is unfortunate because the Resurrected Christ, the Ascended Christ, The Seated at the right hand of God Christ has sent us The Holy Spirit to lead and teach us all things!

I don’t know about you, but I do not want to miss out on knowing what the Holy Spirit wants to lead me in and what he wants to teach me.

For these reasons and more, I am so thankful to God for the Holy Spirit!

Love you all,
Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving Day!
Peter Larocque
peterlarocque@hotmail.com ◇

TV TALK with BILL CUSHING



CBS’s ‘The Unicorn’ Is The Fall’s Best New Comedy

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

The best new network comedy of this fall TV season is the charming and delightful CBS series ‘The Unicorn.’ A unicorn, in this context, is defined as “that elusive creature that all single women are looking for.” Which is a widower and a father who, because he’s only had sex with one person for the last 20 years, is considered “factory fresh.”

“The Unicorn” in this case is Wade Felton, played wonderfully by the always amazing Walton Goggins. When we first meet Wade he has been mourning the loss of his wife for a year. He and his two daughters have reached the stage of acceptance, and seem to be coping, but not exactly in the best ways. There are dogs on the counter, and dinners are being selected from the slowly dwindling pile of casseroles stashed in the freezer by friends and neighbors after the death of Wade’s wife. All of this makes Wade see that it’s time to move on to the next phase, to start participating in life again. So he begins to consider the idea of dating again and what it would mean to welcome a new person into his life.

All of this happens in the first 5 minutes of the first episodes. This is a great creative choice. We get to meet Wade and his kids well into the grieving process, and well after the shock has passed. After all this is a comedy, and it’s not about grief or recovering from a loss. It’s about moving on and enjoying life again, even when the loss lingers.

What surprised me most when watching ‘The Unicorn’ is how heartfelt and honest it can be at times. Remember that not only has Wade lost his wife, but he is also now dealing with being a single dad to two daughters. The show really handles these situations right. Wade isn’t always

the perfect father, but his love for his kids and his optimism in life are really touching and sincere.

A terrific support cast helps a lot too. The show’s adolescent co-stars, Ruby Jay and Makenzie Moss, are well-cast and have a chemistry with Goggins that brings out his paternal charm. Rob Corddry, Omar Miller, Maya Lynne Robinson, and Michaela Watkins play Wade’s supportive group of friends and they are all terrific in each of their respective roles.

Goggins, however, is the real attraction here. His performance is the shows strength. Often typecast in villainous roles, he rarely gets the chance to play someone you could describe as delightful or even likable. Here, he does both, and does it extremely well. With his recent performances in shows like ‘Vice Principals,’ and ‘The Righteous Gemstones’ and past roles in classics like ‘The Shield,’ and ‘Justified,’ he has really cemented himself as one of the best actors on television. With ‘The Unicorn’ we get to see a whole new type of role for him.

Created by Bill Martin and Mike Schiff, the team behind ‘3rd Rock from the Sun’ and more recently ‘Trial and Error,’ ‘The Unicorn’ is a thoughtful and sweet sitcom where the point isn’t death, it’s life and living.

‘The Unicorn’ airs Thursdays at 8:30 on CBS.

If you have any questions about TV you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column. Follow me on Twitter @BillSTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion. ◇





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Thomas G Haffner Jr & Rosa Haffner,
Rachel D Kelly & Roberto A DiAgostino,
\$1,587,500, 9 Black Horse Ln
Twin Birch Development LLC, Todd R &
Leigh A Berberian, \$1,562,000, 9 Monarch
Ln
Twin Birch Development LLC, Jeffrey &
Vanessa Tonello, \$1,320,000, 5 Monarch Ln
Todd R Berberian & Leigh A Heffron,
Adam M & Heidi M Quinn, \$1,280,000, 104
Pine St
Kimberley A Felton Revocable Trust &
Michael S Ukropina Tr & Kimberley A Felton
Tr & Michael S Ukropina Revocalbe Trust,
Jeffrey H & Dina L Solis, \$970,000, 230
Salem St
RJJ Properties LLC, Sean R & Karen C
McCarthy, \$969,900, 11 Phoenix Pl
Fleming Avenue Andover LLC, Christos P
& Amanda Kalavantis, \$849,900, 31 Flem-
ing Ave
David R & Barbara A Lundbom, Ellen M
LeMaitre, \$825,000, 46 Morton St
Ellen LeMaitre, Brian A & Laura E
Lemke, \$775,000, 5 Rogers Brook West
Jodi A Festa, Katherine L & Matthew
Weisman, \$770,000, 8 Fairfax Dr
Jennifer Kim & Youn Ki Kim, Philip
J Abrams & Christina Fiore Abrams,
\$770,000, 8 Azalea Dr
Victor & Dana Lanio, Kara A Lanio &
Karol Tegha, \$740,000, 10 Forbes Ln
Fleming Avenue Andover LLC, Callie &
Siu Pau, \$737,000, 24 Fleming Ave
O'Brien Home Inc, Ryan & Jocelyn Mc-
Quade, \$709,900, 147 Lovejoy Rd
Anne L & Frank D Goldstein, Greg & Jam-
ie Pinkham, \$688,500, 13 Candlewood Dr
Ann M Pozerycki Tr & 25 Lincoln Circle
Realty Trust & 29 Lincoln Circle East Realty
Trust & Joseph Pozerycki, Sarah Meier,
\$667,500, 5 Lincoln Cir East
Lisa Johnson & Henry Venuti, Tapan
H & Kuntalben T Maniar, \$665,000, 164
Haverhill St
Kevin B & Rosemarie Manning, Mark &
Elizabeth Memmolo, \$665,000, 15 Paulor-
nette Cir
Donale R & Karen E Roy Trs & Donald &
Karen Roy Living Trust, Lawrence T & Lisa
M Almeida, \$663,000, 136 Chandler Rd
Frank E Bolway III & Frances K Bolway,
Cipriano & Jane Apicelli, \$660,500, 84
Walnut Ave
Michael Mathai & Cicily Micle, Nicole
Lynn Penchansky & Gabriel Barros Freitas,
\$640,000, 25 Dascomb Rd
Adam T & Allyson M Cooper, Dave Botte,
\$599,900, 13 Carlisle St
John G & Martha J Totten, Daniel Swatson
& Misha Riley, \$590,000, 8 Mill Stone Cir
Cattle Crossing LLC, Michael Couture &

Christina Vidoli, \$590,000, 33 Sutherland
Dr
Michael & Hawli A Stuart/Hawli A Palmer,
Ugo & Glory Igwe, \$583,000, 18 Paulor-
nette Cir
Paul D & Gina M Conley, Kenney Kam,
\$489,000, 74 River Rd
Carol Weldin, Gheorghe G & Mihaela
Giurgiu, \$483,000, 148 Shawsheen Rd
Stellson LLC, Joseph D Lamagna,
\$482,246, 7 Random Ln
Irene E Riberdy & John D Welch, George
D & Natalie D Koontz, \$480,000, 39 Birch
Rd
Louis P Minicucci III, Dennis F & Patricia
A Hunt, \$476,000, 4 Powder Mill Sq Unit
103D
Carol A Howe, Davis Carter & Tracey
Lord-Carter, \$474,900, 10 Samos Ln
812 Financial Services LLC, Andrea
Hayes Tr & 110 Real Estate LLC Tr & 134
Lovejoy Road Realty Trust & Richard Jaked
Tr, \$460,000, 134 Lovejoy Rd
Adam M & Heidi M Quinn, Cesar Casillas
& Adanivia Morales, \$455,500, 2 Sweeney
Ct Unit A, Unit 2
Normandy Realty Trust & Pamela J
Grant Tr & Katherine A Hinman Tr & Jill
E Holliday Tr, Daniel N & Amy R Guillet,
\$435,000, 13 Avon St
H Francis Ritterhaus Tr & Joyce M Rit-
terhaus Tr & Ritterhaus Family Trust &
Morey Realty Trust I & Michelle Nelken Tr
& Barbara A Morey Tr & Morey Realty Trust,
Stephen C Hoctor, \$405,000, 5 Porter Rd
Unit 101
Robert J & Susie R Norton, FSB Homes
LLC, \$400,000, 10 Prospect Rd
James P Preston II & Michelle Preston,
Scott W & Lauren D Sprague, \$380,000,
459 South Main St
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Ro-
berta A Caprigno, \$369,995, 2 Francis Dr
Unit 108
Pulte Homes of New England LLC,
Trina Fontneau Tr & Sutura Family Trust,
\$367,995, 2 Francis Dr Unit 111
Thomas Parker, AA Real Estate Enterpris-
es LLC, \$327,500, 145 High Plain Rd
Klaus Unterkofler & Carmen Pepicelli,
Dorothy M & Joseph D Ogrodowczyk,
\$325,000, 22 Railroad St Unit 311
Susan Fortunato, David Yeung, \$319,000,
300 Brookside Dr Unit E
Diane Sheehy, 812 Financial Services
LLC, \$300,000, 134 Lovejoy Rd
Mary J Rusiecki & Mary Rusiecki Trust,
Martha Higuera, \$265,000, 11 Crescent Dr
Unit 12
Eric D Bevilacqua, Shirley D Kalil,
\$225,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 419
Melissa Marrama, Lisa M Cummings,
\$204,300, 3 Colonial Dr Unit A3-2
Dorothy K Tracy & Gretchen M Burns,
Kristen K Faria/Kristen Kelley Faria,
\$201,000, 40 Colonial Dr Unit 40-10
Daniel H Kowalski, Emily K O'Brien,
\$167,500, 354 North Main St Unit R303
Mark A Huntington & Brian J Haley,

Alexander Alexandrov & Olga Alexandrova,
\$129,000, 2 Colonial Dr Unit D2-6
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Donna
Schifano, \$119,800, 2 Francis Dr Unit 104

LAWRENCE

Key Polymer Building LLC, Key Polymer
Real Estate LLC, \$5,500,000, 13-17 Shepard
St
Sekisui Voltek LLC, Shepard Street LLC,
\$5,100,000, 100 Shepard St
Jay Development Corp, Joshua Acquisition
LLC, \$985,000, 378-386 Park St
Bradford Canal LLC, 75-77 Springfield
Street LLC, \$725,000, 61 Bradford St
Francisco Mateo, Wendy Y & Jose A Es-
trella Trs & AG & J Realty Trust, \$615,000,
53-55 Bruce St
Joel Arias, Albania Oran-Hernandez,
\$578,000, 15 Berkeley St
Shrek Property LLC, DLC Phase Two
LLC, \$575,000, 373-379 Howard St
Shrek Property LLC, RJM LLC,
\$560,000, 131-133 Haverhill St
Maria A Maria, Marino A & Yanira Frias,
\$540,000, 24 Rhine St
Dhariana M Gonzalez, Hugo DeLeon/
Hugo M Deleon Soto & Claudia L Perez/
Claudia Perez, \$534,000, 56-58 Sargent St
Joao De Andrade Fontes, Horacio A Guz-
man Vasquez, \$533,000, 2 Montgomery St
Border Market LLC, JCB Holding LLC,
\$530,000, 651 Broadway
Nelson Batista, Marlin I Osorio & Julio M
Osorio, \$529,800, 265 Andover St
Wandy R Rodriguez & Leiby A Vargas,
Victor E Sanchez Caraballo & Anyeli San-
chez Caraballo, \$520,000, 81-83 Stearns Ave
Premium Properties Inc, Yahaira Delgado
De los santos, \$500,000, 85-87 Shawsheen
Rd
Jason A & Priscilla B Sabatino, Cristian
Bueno, \$495,000, 70 Bennington St
Delvis Jaime, Ramona Mateo-Gonzalez
& Margarita Pineda-Gonzalez, \$489,900, 30
Belmont St
Pacasio & Caridad Martinez, Stephen D
Igbeka, \$485,000, 59 Haverhill St
Jose Arias, Rachel De La Cruz, \$470,000,
24-26 Juniper St
Rodolfo Tejeda & Agustina M Almonte,
Darvi R Lantigua & Yandra Lantigua,
\$451,500, 57 Sunset Ave
David and George Realty, Jose Brito De
Leon, \$450,000, 26 Kendall St
Raquel Gonzalez/Racquel Gonzalez &
Selena Gonzalez, Bielka M De la Cruz
& Fiordaliza Taveras & Luis G Marte,
\$443,000, 149 Warwick St
Sol M Rijos & Joanelys Toro-Grey, Erida-
nia Reyes-Paulino & Jose Manuel Reyes &
Ronald Quiroz, \$430,000, 74 Bennington St
Jose Betancourt, Mike Romano & Brigny
Frias, \$430,000, 8 Katherine St
Nieves Delacruz Guerrero & Roberto
Delacruz, Anite Laurent, \$430,000, 44-46
Sanborn St
Manuel Joaquin Tr & 192-194 Arlington

Street Realty Trust, Alexander Rocha &
Maria Dolores Romano De Smith, \$420,000,
192-194 Arlington St
Karl R & Caitlyn Armano, Feliz Soto,
\$410,000, 52 Rollins St
Wilfre Taveras, Victor Antigua, \$409,000,
119-121 Springfield St
Emilio A Gonell, Francisco I Batista
Gomez & Roselien M Reyes Gonzalez,
\$405,000, 16 Prospect Ct
Piroshka L & Patricia L Reyes, Frank
Vasquez Alvarez & Corina Corona, \$402,000,
17 Willoghby St
Jianhua Zheng, Yefry E Suriel Tavaréz &
Noelka Altagracia Tatis De Suriel & Christo-
pher Suriel Tavaréz, \$393,000, 8 Durso Ave
Anatol Chapet Living Trust & Vanessa
Fossouo Tr, Hermes Godoy, \$390,000, 207-
209 East Haverhill St
Vivian Baez & Eva Montero, Marlon Cas-
tanaza, \$387,000, 42 Columbus Ave
Elias S & Samia E Azzi, William Nunez
Del Orbe, \$379,000, 8 Rollins St
Lucia Ceballo/Lucia Midalgo, Willi M
Medina, \$378,000, 77-79 Alder St
Timothy L Bradley, Silvina Perez,
\$370,000, 33 Liberty Ave
Therese Sarkis, Sultan A Alqarmeh,
\$364,000, 112 S Bowdoin St
Jose R Fana/Jose Raul Fana, Frisnel &
Leinechie Joseph, \$360,000, 55 Columbus
Ave
Junior G & Ana Yasmel Delahoz, Yegor &
Natasha Yegorov, \$355,000, 10-12 Webster
Ct
Basilia Alba/Basilia I Cavallaro, Junior
Mejia & Pena de Mejia, \$355,000, 25 Mt
Vernon Cir
Kelvin Salazar, Johelly Chalas & Juan
Romero Victorino, \$350,000, 4 Tudor Ave
Cynthia & Efrain Sierra, Ariana A
Figueroa, \$350,000, 33 Ridgewood Cir
Michael L Rivet Tr & Mark F Rivet Tr
& Rivet Family Trust, Jose A & Sandra E
Jimenez, \$335,000, 5 Burlington St
Junior B Ruiz, Erica Talley, \$327,500, 78
Beacon St
Jose E & Olga Moniz, Francisco Jorge,
\$325,000, 229-231 Erving Ave
James F & Angela Hooole, Jasmin MH
Whitney & Yvonne Castellon, \$320,000, 26
Durso Ave
Jose Aneury Blanco & Alexandra D Abreu
Cruz, Strella M Helena, \$315,000, 257 Jack-
son St
Ana Lucia Delacruz, Raul Gomez &
Brunilda A Garcia De Gomez, \$286,000, 8
Tenney St
Maryann B Beauregard & Michael J
Swarbrick, William Rivera & Argenis flores
& Nydia Ileana Dejesus, \$280,000, 102
Weare St
Berberian 2019 Trust & Janet I Berberian
Tr, Jonathan Speing, \$272,000, 693 Lowell St
Kristin Korbey, Alexandro J Rodriguez &
Santana Maria, \$259,000, 57 Steiner St Unit
A
Benedict DiMambro & Theresa F DiMam-
bro Est, Jose M Batista, \$255,000, 12 Lasalle
Ave
Edwin & Evelyn Cruz, Mark A Phillip &
Cynthia Cano-Phillip, \$255,000, 189 Ferry St
Unit 2A
Alyssa A Ferland Tr & Ferland Fam-
ily Trust & Natalie A Ferland Tr/Natalie A
Ferland Houlihan Tr, 105-107 Water Street
Realty LLC, \$250,000, 105-107 Water St
Lamacchia Development LLC, Luis J
Flores, \$237,000, 91 William St
Prime Real Estate Investment LLC, Make-
over Pros LLC, \$235,000, 50 Thornton St
Alex Chen, Jasmine Montero, \$223,000,
343 Water St Unit 343
Ramon & Belkys Reynoso, Alphonsina
Disla, \$220,000, 493 Andover St
Jason C & Jennifer M Vallone, Ezequiel
Gutierrez Lantigua & Yokasta Polanco De
Gutierrez, \$220,000, 57 Kingston St
Martin DeJesus Est & Martin DeJesus Jr,



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REAL ESTATE FROM PAGE 27

Prime Real Estate Investment LLC, \$195,000,
50 Thornton St
John H Curtin, Romeo & Vilma Lopez,
\$190,000, 29 May St
Victor J & Harriet J Balestracci, Lexjim
LLC, \$173,343.79, 36 Gilbert St
Barbara C D Mancini, Makeover Pros
LLC, \$166,000, 15 Newton St
Union Milford Homes LLC, Jose Medina,
\$160,000, 132 Union St
United Midwest Savings Bank N A, BMI
Real Estate LLC, \$155,000, 21 Bunkerhill St
Deborah Y Cromer-Bufford, Jose Sanchez,
\$150,000, 1 Marshalls Wy Unit 1
Brian D & Nicole S LaBranche, Antonio
L & Olga I Pagan, \$145,000, 22 Pleasant St
Unit 3
Giulietta LLC, Denia M Ferreras,
\$131,000, 103 Brookfield St
Frank A Garcia Jr, Matthew L Rasetta,
\$85,000, 11 Lawrence St Unit 606
Aileen R Neve, Thomas E Neve, \$5,700,
Woodland St

METHUEN

Toll MA Land IV LLC, Joel B & Brenda S Hellmann, \$885,745, 84 Pine Tree Dr Unit 123

Toll MA IV LLC, Donald R & Karen E Roy, \$815,637, 57 Pine Tree Dr Unit 81

Toll MA IV LLC, Hubert & Michele Johnson, \$796,751, 63 Pine Tree Dr Unit 78

Toll MA IV LLC, Kevin A & Cherylann L Feole, \$765,288, 59 Pine Tree Dr Unit 80

Toll MA Land III LP, Adrian C & Lissette Santiago, \$654,407, 4 Hummingbird Wy Unit 2

Toll MA IV LLC, Donna J Roy-Mangiaratti Living Trust & Donna J Roy-Mangiaratti Tr & Edward F Mangiaratti Tr & Edward F Mangiaratti Living Trust, \$652,736, 42 Sequoia Dr Unit 59

Toll MA IV LLC, Stephen R & Lois T Goldberg, \$650,700, 28 Pine Tree Dr Unit 20

Homes at Great Oaks LLC, Elie & Cheryl Khoury, \$625,000, 11 Tucker Ter

Toll MA Land III LP, Minghui Fu & Lixing Zhang, \$624,729, 11 Phoebe St Unit 11

Toll MA Land III LP, Anne L Goldstein Tr & SAM Realty Trust, \$623,175, 8 Phoebe St Unit 141

Toll MA Land III LP, Margret G Acampora Tr & Andrew J Acampora Tr & Acampora Realty Trust, \$616,789, 31 Hummingbird Wy Unit 3

Toll MA Land III LP, Daniel F & Dorna A Walsh, \$600,239, 9 Phoebe St Unit 10

Howard H & Beth A Swartz Trs & Sherwood Forrest Realty Trust, Michael Gerard & Julie W McIntyre, \$600,000, 73 Sherwood Dr Unit 153

Pinnacle Builders LLC, Gerald J & Babra J Murphy, \$599,995, 8 Liams Ln

Toll MA Land III LP, Karen Brown, \$568,801, 2 Hummingbird Wy Unit 1

Toll MA Land III LP, Mark C & Donna J Sullivan, \$560,840, 3 Hummingbird Wy Unit 4

Toll MA Land III LP, Eric & Christina Sideri, \$551,995, 7 Phoebe St Unit 9

Toll MA Land III LP, Mary R Redman Marson Tr & Marson Family Revocable Trust, \$550,065, 6 Phoebe St Unit 142

Homes at Great Oaks LLC, Janice B Carey, \$549,900, 5 Tucker Ter

William & Bonnie L O'Leary, Daniel R & Krystyne EC Goodhue, \$540,000, 8 Sabrina Ct

Anthony A & Michelle M Mazzone, Pierre Richard Volcy & Verlaine Polynice-Volcy, \$540,000, 39 Copley Dr

Toll MA Land III LP, Steven H & Randi H Petter, \$538,495, 5 Hummingbird Wy Unit 5

John T & Eileen Karavias, Dorcas DeJesus & Jamime Luis Acevedo & Fernando DeJesus, \$520,000, 3 Bartlett Rd

Ryan M Shea, Christian & Kimberly L Boyle, \$515,000, 23 Copley Dr

Juana I Gonzalez, Jose Espinal, \$505,000, 61 Berwick St

David Albert & Marie A Arena, Roger Cruz, \$500,000, 45-47 Howe St

Vicki E Salmon, Mark & Susan LeBlanc, \$495,000, 3 Shearson Dr

Kathleen M Stacy, Gregory Torney, \$492,500, 39 Sycamore Rd
Edward J & Margaret E Rabbito Trs & EMR Trust, M Joy Stoodley, \$489,900, 39 Russell Farm Dr Unit 34
Roseanne M & Thomas J Dallan, James Waldie, \$485,000, 300 Hampshire Rd
MichelleDoherty/Michelle & Daniel Dellanno, Beth H Vellante & Kathryn A Kelleher, \$460,000, 11 Dundee Ave Ext
Brad Cadieux, Ramon Castillo, \$460,000, 225-227 Oakland Ave
Douglas S & Michele D Ohlson/Michelle D Ohlson, Anthony A & Michelle M Mazzone, \$455,000, 110 Bridle Path Ln
Denis Contreras & Bryan D Contreras, Maria Gomez Cante, \$450,000, 63-65 Camden St
Elie & Cheryl Khoury, Samer Khoury, \$450,000, 19 Coachman Ln
Summers Crossing LLC, Carmen & Joseph Pittella, \$440,000, 18 Ferry Rd Unit 9
Mark McGreevy, Abrian A Santiago & Erika C Flores, \$440,000, 361 Forest St
Ke Lu & Cuimei Xie, Joseph & Laura Martocchio, \$435,000, 34 Nevins Rd
Kenneth G Clifford II & Linda A Breckenridge/Linda A Clifford, Brandon R & Michele M Lamphier, \$434,000, 174 Edgewood Ave
William S Bucu Tr & Stephen W Bucu Tr & Margaret G Bucu Irrevocable Family Trust, Max A Henriquez, \$431,900, 43-45 Vermont St
Dennis J Bradley Jr & Theresa E Bradley, Obed & Melida E Posada, \$431,000, 11 Tedesco Rd
Mark A & Susan LeBlanc/Susan Gaffney-LeBlanc, Angel & Bryan G Leary, \$425,000, 46 Chippy Ln
Laurie Hasem, Riccardo & Shannon D Crugnale, \$425,000, 65 Temple Dr
Bruce A & Susan M MacDougall, Susan M Grande, \$424,900, 10 Foreside St
James Hollingsworth & Robyn Aziz, Samantha & Marc Haughton/Marc R Haughton, \$422,500, 6 Blueberry Ln
Edward E Ovitt, Jose Guillermo Capellan, \$415,000, 71 Union St
Willaim J Gallagher III & Ileana E Gallagher, Joseph H Rivera & Breanne C Rogers, \$409,000, 46 Magna Rd
Anastasios & Mary Vouthourelis & George Vouthourelis, Georges Chammass & Elie Alchammas, \$400,000, 11 Maplewood Ave
Allen LLC, Elias Checho, \$395,000, 25 Albermarle St
Steven S & Karen E Blair, Linda Saunders & Richard Piatek, \$395,000, 68 Emsley Ter
Michael J & Diana L Ewing, Arbilda I Caraballo & Angel Manuel Ortiz Jr, \$385,000, 13 Capitol St
Peter & Mary Conlan, Siyla & Saokin Meas, \$380,000, 115 West St
Anne-Marie Fiore, Hazel P Williams, \$370,900, 38 Ridge Rd
Robert P Marsella Tr & Susan M Feole Tr & Marsella Irrevocable Trust, Kathleen M Carroll, \$370,000, 150 North St
Rafael Fermin Almanzar, Danilo Jose & Wendy LaRochelle, \$370,000, 20 Clementi Ln
Fedelis & Krystal Chimombe, Luz A Salazar De Paulino, \$370,000, 61-63 Phillipsis St
Mark L Coulon & Lee Ann G Coulon Mahoney & Michelle Squatrito, Elie Ibrahim Ata, \$369,900, 599 Forest St

Robert J & Rosemarie J Silverio Trs & Appaloosa Realty Trust, Daniel Patck Shea, \$369,900, 22 Appaloosa Dr

Ezequiel Meran, Michael D Bassett & Erica A Maguire/Erica Maguire, \$365,000, 1 Fern St

MTGLQ Investors LP, Jose Rosario & Yenny Baez Carrion, \$357,777, 63 Lyndale Ave

Jessica L Copeland, Maria A Lopez & Marvin G Hercules, \$357,000, 10 Field Ave

Davis Carter & Tracey Lord, Katelyn Kimball & Zoe Porter, \$350,000, 189 Tyler St

Reine M Picard, Fernanda M Pina & Dolores P Turcotte, \$345,000, 14 Linden St

Anne R Lemieux, Congminh Nguyen & Hung Phi Nghiem, \$344,900, 215 Haverhill St

Ross A Faucher/Ross W Faucher, Kraig Sherwood, \$343,500, 58 Conrad St

James P Homsey & Kenneth M Honsey & Jeanne E Lally, Jason C & Heather L Plunkett, \$340,000, 115 East St

Abby Realty Trust & Thomas Abisalah Tr, Ma & Dads Corner Lot LLC, \$340,000, 2 Osgood St, 269 Broadway

Marc R Haughton II & Samantha C Haughton, Brandon & Allison Turkette, \$339,000, 3 Benefit St

Jennifer L Hatch/Jennifer L Oliveria & Julimar De Oliveira, Katherine Peralta & Robert Martinez, \$329,900, 14 Webb St

Richard Bostick, Lorenzo Polanco, \$325,000, 38 Deborah Ave

Bruce A Rollins, Nicole P Rollins & Kevin P Tremblay, \$325,000, 47 Campus Rd

Merrimack Valley Real Estate Solutions LLC, Adil Redouani, \$324,000, 45 Railroad St

Essex Properties LLC, Juan Carlos Frias & Odelkis P Frias, \$320,000, 10 1/2 Granite St

Aligrove Realty Trust & Peter J Groves Tr & Ann M Cote Tr, Caleb J Middlemiss, \$319,900, 14 Gage St

Thomas J Belluardo Tr & Farley Realty Trust, Paola Altigracia Sanchez, \$310,000, 15 Farley St

Joseph Cianciolo, Mackendy Gabriel & Dorsainvil B Gabriel, \$305,000, 4 Sawyer Pl

Charles E McRobbie III & Charles E McRobbie Jr Est, Jill & Joseph Cantarella, \$305,000, 6 Bernard Ln

Michael Joseph Mackin & Bernadette Graycar & James E Mackin, Brenda G Matthis & Allan Pulvermacher, \$305,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 4-102

Kevin Fillion, Concord River Properties LLC, \$303,300, 16 Sea St

Jacob Bagdoian, Falon Meuse, \$300,000, 130 Tyler St

Dawn M Collins, Isaiah J Coleman, \$286,000, 84 Reservoir St Unit 2

James & Patricia DiGloria, Charbel A Bourouphael, \$285,000, 53 Merrimack St

Daniel A & Cynthia F Kelleher, Lucinda M Hudson, \$277,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 9-203

James J & Erin Ferrari, Laura J Gomez & Ronald Skidgel, \$275,000, 11 Marvin St

Claudia Montan, Alejandro Garcia, \$275,000, 6 Steiner St

Nancy K Mattola/Nancy K Mottola & Sonja M Zytkevicz-Czajka/Sonja M Palermo & Bruce S Zytkevicz, Paul Michaud Tr & Julian Dupont Tr & 113 Howe Street Realty Trust, \$265,000, 113 Howe St

Cristino LLC, LLB Construction Inc, \$245,000, 25-27 Williams St

Dorothy J Hillner Est & Mark W Hillner & John R Hillner, PB Realty Homes LLC, \$240,000, 121 North Lowell St.

Pisano Realty Trust & Antonio Pisano Tr ,
Kiran Raju Tr & Elite Realty Trust, \$207,500,
380 Merrimack St Unit 2A
Ali Razvi & Shabana, Shirley Berard,
\$205,000, 945 Riverside Dr Unit 18B
Fidelity House Inc, Axis Property Solutions
LLC, \$196,500, 21 Buttonwood Dr
Jill & Josph Cantarella, Maroun D &
Mirna A Bechara, \$182,500, 49 Constitution
Wy Unit 14D
Ryan Nault, Carlos Estevez, \$175,000, 108
Ford St Unit F
Mark A & Tracey P Hanscom, Tom Ngoc
Nguyen & Lan Thurthi Nguyen, \$149,000, 50
Danbury Dr Unit 18
SS-LBMA LLC, Wilson G Garcia Acosta,
\$90,000, 47 Lowell St

NORTH ANDOVER

Kay Juel III Tr/Kai Juel III Tr/Kay Juel Tr & Eastcon Realty Trust, Muffin 3X LLC, \$3,551,000, 335 Willow St

Osgood Realty Trust & Wayne E Pasanen Tr & Susan Anton Pasanen Tr/Susan A Pasanen Tr, Mitesh & Shilpa Patel, \$1,086,000, 117 Osgood St

Enno K Tjalsma Revocable Trust of November 14, 2002 & Enno K Tjalsma Tr, Susanna Maher Tr & Susanna Maher Revocable Trust, \$980,000, 5 Great Lake Ln

Louis J & Linda C Wagner, Brian Zinke, \$753,690, 32 Equestrian Dr

Joelle R & George M Murphy, Adam & Stephanie Parsch, \$739,900, 47 Huckleberry Ln

Holk & Jessica D Bergmann, Andrew & Iva DeNicola, \$720,000, 120 Amberville Rd

Kimberly A MacInnis, Casey William & Jasmine Rose Paige Russo, \$650,000, 67 Empire Dr

Joanne F Lynch, Peter & Shirley Galvin, \$645,000, 53 Millpond

Jesse D & Kathleen Lelievre, Mark Donnelly & Joan Ruland Donnelly, \$630,000, 281 Andover St

Todd J & Kristen L Stringer, Phillip Andre Wilson & Robyn Nicola Benstead, \$628,500, 43 Mill Rd

291 Middlesex LLC, Joseph Cataldo, \$625,000, 291 Middlesex St

Kreative Property Solutions LLC, Lisa & Kenneth Whitehead, \$620,000, 920 Johnson St

Keith & Suong Chaney, Leonel & Tamiela Peralta, \$605,000, 548 Forest St

Casey W & Jasmine R P Russo, Rajeev Panakanti & Avantika Domudala, \$605,000, 42 Empire Dr

AMJ Investments LLC, Dinorah M DeLeon-Roque, \$594,500, 31-33 Saunders St

Timothy & Kristen Stonecipher, Kenneth John Nobile Jr & Danielle Marie Nobile, \$565,000, 555 Forest St

Keith Barnard, Chong Lee, \$550,000, 69 Highland View Ave

Joyce 2017 Nominee Realty Trust & Paul J Joyce Tr & Jean M Joyce Tr, John J Hashem III & Laurie J Hashem, \$540,000, 32 Sandra Ln

Waldemar Arndt Revocable Trust & Victor J Mill III Tr, Jacqueline M Ulbin Tr & JM Ulbin Family Trust, \$500,000, 30 Heath Rd

Stephen Sherwin & Nicole Edwards, Neil J & Lisa M Rosenberg, \$479,900, 41 Mark Rd

Forgetta Development LLC, Java Properties Worchester LLC, \$472,500, 1210 Osgood St

Benjamin J & Pamela M Ricci, Jacqueline A Kelley & Peter V Demirdjian, \$465,000, 455 Wood Ln

Jose M Lopez Aleman & Olga Duque Diaz, Jonathan Maimaron & Lindsey M Giacomoni, \$461,000, 64 Meadowood Rd

Robert D & Janet L Sullivan, Nathan C Smith & Laura A Mondt, \$460,000, 72 Waverly Rd

WK Real Estate Inc, Michael O'Reilly, \$459,900, 347 Massachusetts Ave

Christopher D Hyde, 58 Stevens LLC, \$450,000, 485 Wood Ln

Mark E Burns Tr & Mark Burns Family Trust, Alexander V Lomovtsev, \$425,000, 1403 Basswood Cir Unit 1403

Rafael & Sharon Dones, Santos Osorio, \$417,000, 395 Massachusetts Ave



REAL ESTATE: FROM 28

Rory N Nguyen & Thao Nguyen, Betzabet Ascencio, \$392,500, 19 Commonwealth Ave
Morgan Gager, Bernard Boyle Tr & Boyle Family Trust, \$359,500, 89 Beverly St
Meredith K Carver, Demetra Grenier, \$350,000, 96 Millpond Rd
Michaela A Ristuccia, Sophie L Walsh, \$330,000, 190 Chickering Rd Unit 101D
Janelle M Corbett, Dino & Marisa DiFronzo, \$325,200, 2 Harvest Dr Unit 112
Gerald F & Cynthia Clement/Cynthia Tortolini, Maryann Richards, \$325,000, 12 Stacy Dr
N6 Properties LLC, Edward J & Margaret E Rabbito Trs & EMR Realty Trust, \$322,000, 148 Main St Unit A-105
Beth H Vellante & Kathryn A Kelleher, Elizabeth Catarino , \$310,000, 180 Chickering Rd Unit 206C
Marke S & Julie P Ratte Trs & Ratte

Family Trust, Matthew J Fisher, \$270,000, 4 Bixby Ave Unit 4
Ana & David Shields, Brian J Haley & Mark A Huntington, \$250,900, 75 Edgelawn Ave Unit 2
Christopher S Nashed, Precious O Isibor, \$245,000, 14 Walker Rd Unit 5
Mark J T Caggiano, Ashley Rose Walsh, \$219,900, 25 Edgelawn Ave Unit 10
Erik James & Sherry Faass/Sherry McKillop, Edward A Cuoco Sr, \$191,000, 8 Walder Rd Unit 11
Samuel E & SusanaTapia, Aaron Lewis & Shaina Nicole Marzano, \$175,000, 1 Walker Rd Unit 1
Harley Realty LLC, Robert P Cipro Tr & RC Realty Trust, \$150,000, 12 May St Unit 12
New England Aviators LLC, Rebecca Harvey, \$53,500, 280 Holt Rd Unit 1

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

ing JAWS speech software for the blind. He has written a book on his experiences in Vietnam and afterward, and both Gerard and I are looking for an editor and publisher for his book.

Meeting with Gerard made me question what, if anything, I am doing for my fellow Veterans. After attending the wake and funeral last summer of a young Veteran who died suddenly, leaving behind his small children I have been more focused on how the Veteran’s Organization I belong to, the American Legion, can help prevent us from attending more wakes and funerals of our young Veterans. How many problems can be solved by two Veterans meeting for a cup of coffee, or going for a hike, catching a Red Sox game, or even just having a beer together? I remember about a year ago, a local Veteran was going to lose his job because he needed brake work done on his car so his car would pass the Massachusetts State Auto inspection, and his family simply did not have the funds. Solvable problem, but if this Veteran and his family cannot solve it, no car, means no job. My Legion Post provided some of the funds to get this repair work done, the funds were sent directly to the mechanic, who did the work. Never was I prouder to be a member of the American Legion than I was hearing this story at our Post’s monthly meeting. A few dollars from his fellow Veterans prevented a job loss that would have created even more financial problems for his family. Dracut American Legion members Bob Page, Roland Provencher, both Veterans of the US Air Force, and retired Dracut Veteran’s Services Officer Bill Zounes, a Veteran of the 82nd Airborne, for years have been the “tip of the spear” when it comes to helping Veterans locally. Meeting with them over breakfast at Lowell’s Cameo Diner, they asked me to encourage Veterans to visit their fellow Veterans, at the Bedford VA, in local nursing homes or assisted living centers, or simply stopping by their house for a cup of coffee. All three understand young Veterans are correctly focused on family and careers, but all three believe in strength in large numbers of Veterans banding together for a common cause and ask all Veterans to join the American Legion. Our challenge to all Veterans, from all services, and all eras, to visit these two organizations online, the American Legion and the Blinded Veterans Association, email or call their officers, learn more about both Veterans organizations, and how they are assisting Veterans. If you are eligible, join either or both online as well.

Further challenging our brother and sister Veterans is to find some small way to assist their fellow Veterans. It does not need to become a full or part time job, it could be as simple as a job referral or helping with a home repair. How about taking a Veteran to Muddy Waters in Methuen for a beer and a burger? Or down to Tripoli’s at the beach for a slice of pizza? It does not take much to make a fellow Veteran’s Day special! With that being said...

Happy Veteran’s Day to all!



Two Types of Blinded Veterans Association Membership

Life Membership: Impairment of sight or vision is determined to be service connected.

Associate Life Membership: Impairment of sight or vision is not determined to be service connected.

<https://www.bva.org/>
American Legion Eligibility Information

If you are a Veteran and have served on federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces at any time since December 7, 1941 and have been honorably discharged or are still serving in our Armed Forces, you are eligible for membership in the American Legion.

Because eligibility dates remain open, all current active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join the American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States. This writer encourages active Navy, Coast Guard, Marine, Army, and Air Force personnel to help protect their benefits and honor their fellow Veterans by joining online or at a local Post.

<https://www.legion.org/>
The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II and Korean War Veterans to call 603-518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC!



John Cuddy served in the US Navy’s Construction Battalions (known as the Seabees) after retiring from the Navy; he earned a bachelor’s in history and a master’s in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 22 years. If you know a World War II veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com. ♦



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The Paying Attention! Podcast held 8 debates this election season in Methuen, four in the primary and four during the general election. Above are the candidates for the West End District City Council Race. Above right are mayoral candidates Jen Kannan and Neil Perry. Paying Attention! Podcast Debate Ratings as of Nov. 2nd (Facebook viewers only) *Final Election Debates: Central District City Council 4,610 - West District City Council 4,091. At Large City Council 2,123, - Mayor 5,000 ***TOTAL = 16,824 | *PRIMARY ELECTION DEBATES: West End City Council 8,599 - At Large City Council 9,398 - Central District 7,583 - Mayoral Debate (pt 1 & 2) 8,476 - ***TOTAL = 36,056 viewers! *** TOTAL FACEBOOK VIEWS ONLY = 49,880 *** This does not include YouTube views or audio downloads on PodBean, Spreker, iHeartRadio, iTunes etc.



The Paying Attention! Podcast is recorded in front of a live studio audience at the Studio 21 Podcast Cafe high atop Two Guys Smoke Shop in Salem, NH



NOTEBOOK FROM 9

FY2020 state budget filed by Representative Frank Moran to enhance their existing community development initiatives around affordable housing, foreclosure prevention, first-time homebuyer, and financial literacy education.

NORTH ANDOVER SANTA PARADE

Saturday November 30th is the North Andover Santa Parade. Each year the Merchants Association sponsors a musical entertainment group to be in the parade.

We pay for this through donations from our members. In return we put a banner from the donating businesses on our float that day in the parade. Our float is built on one of Trombly Brothers trucks that they generously allow us to use in the parade. The truck drives in front of the group we sponsor. Also we will put a “shout out” on our Facebook page to all the businesses that donate.

The donation to get your banner on the float is \$100.


If you have wanted to get your busi-

ness in the parade but just don’t have the time or resources to put a float together, this is a great way to do that. The parade is a great community event that has been growing each year, and thousands of spectators are expected.

Also, the parade happens to always be on Small Business Saturday and we use the float along with ads in the local papers to promote this and remind people to “Shop Local!”

To get your banner on the float you can respond to this email or reach out to me directly at Chris@BlueDogPetCare.com. You can drop your banner and check off at BlueDog at 1755 Osgood Street or if you reach out to me, I can arrange pick up. We can accommodate most sizes of banners but ask that they be about 2’ x 5’ or in that neighborhood. Please get your banner and payment in before Thanksgiving.

The parade will start at 12pm at North Andover Middle School and make its way down to Sutton & Main St. Check the map below for more route details. ♦



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North Andover Merchants Association

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